

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES



SEGA®

SONIC™



THE HEDGEHOG

THE
STORY THAT
WAS **TOO BIG**
FOR A SINGLE
ISSUE!!

THE
125TH

ISSUE
EXTRAVAGANZA
STARTS HERE—

SONIC
ADVENTURE
2.5:
ALPHA

PLUS:

IN THIS CURRENT
CHAPTER OF
THE LATEST
ECHIDNA EPIC,
KNUCKLES
FINDS HIMSELF
GETTING USED
TO LIVING IN
THE "AFTERLIFE"



SPAZ
NIBETRO
J.D.RAY

WHERE... AM I? FEEL...
DISORIENTED...

ONE VESSEL
ON APPROACH...

SONIC ADVENTURE 2.5: ALPHA

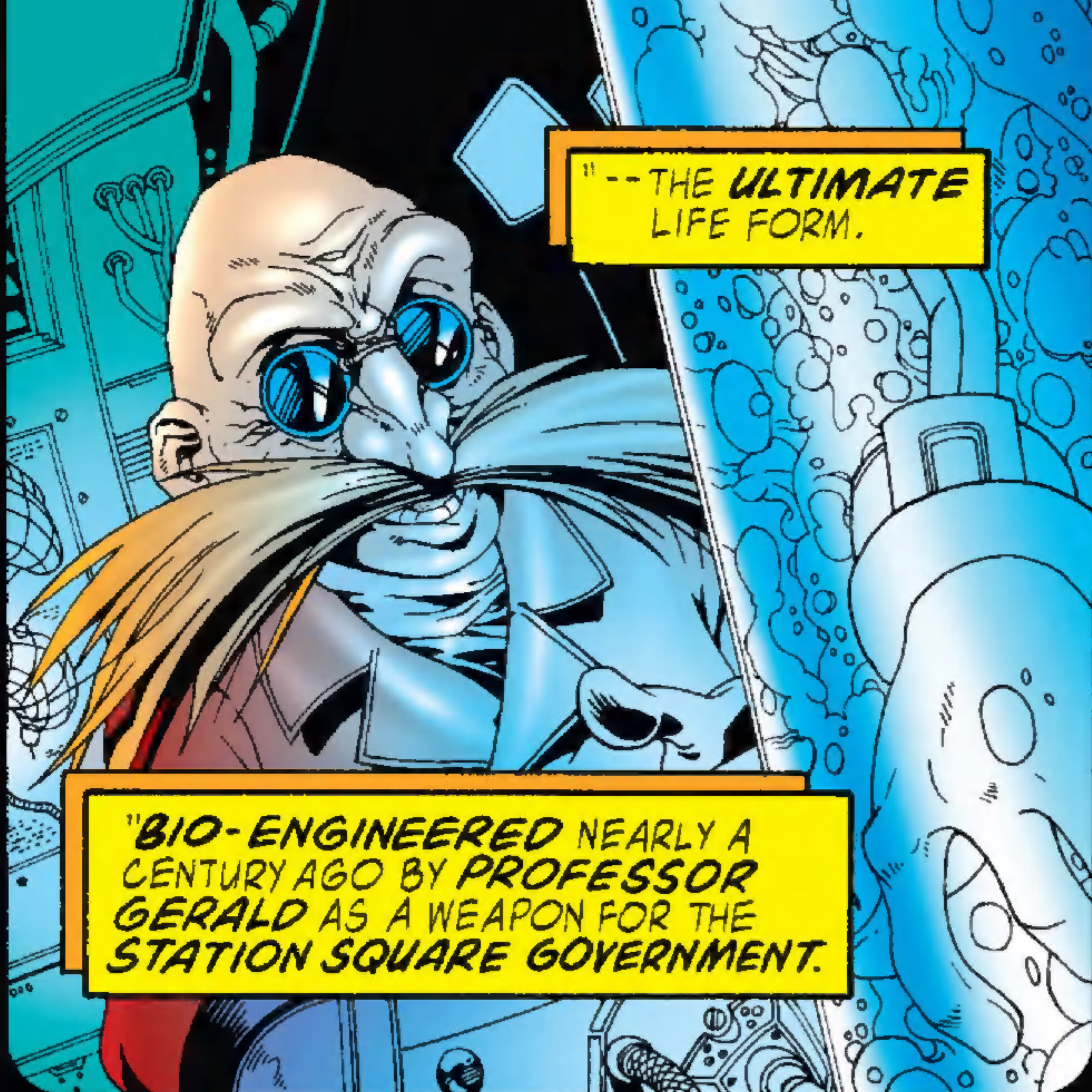
- STORY -
KARL BOLLERS
- PENCILS -
J. AXER [pp. 1-5]
STEVEN BUTLER [pp. 6-19]
- INKS -
CONOR TOMAS [pp. 1-5]
JIM AMASH [pp. 6-19]
- COLORS -
JASON JENSEN
- LETTERER -
JEFF POWELL
- EDITOR -
J.F. GABRIE
- MANAGING EDITOR -
VICTOR GORELICK
- EDITOR IN CHIEF -
RICHARD GOLDWATER

...AND
ANOTHER
ONE LEAVING.
WHY?

SO MANY
QUESTIONS.

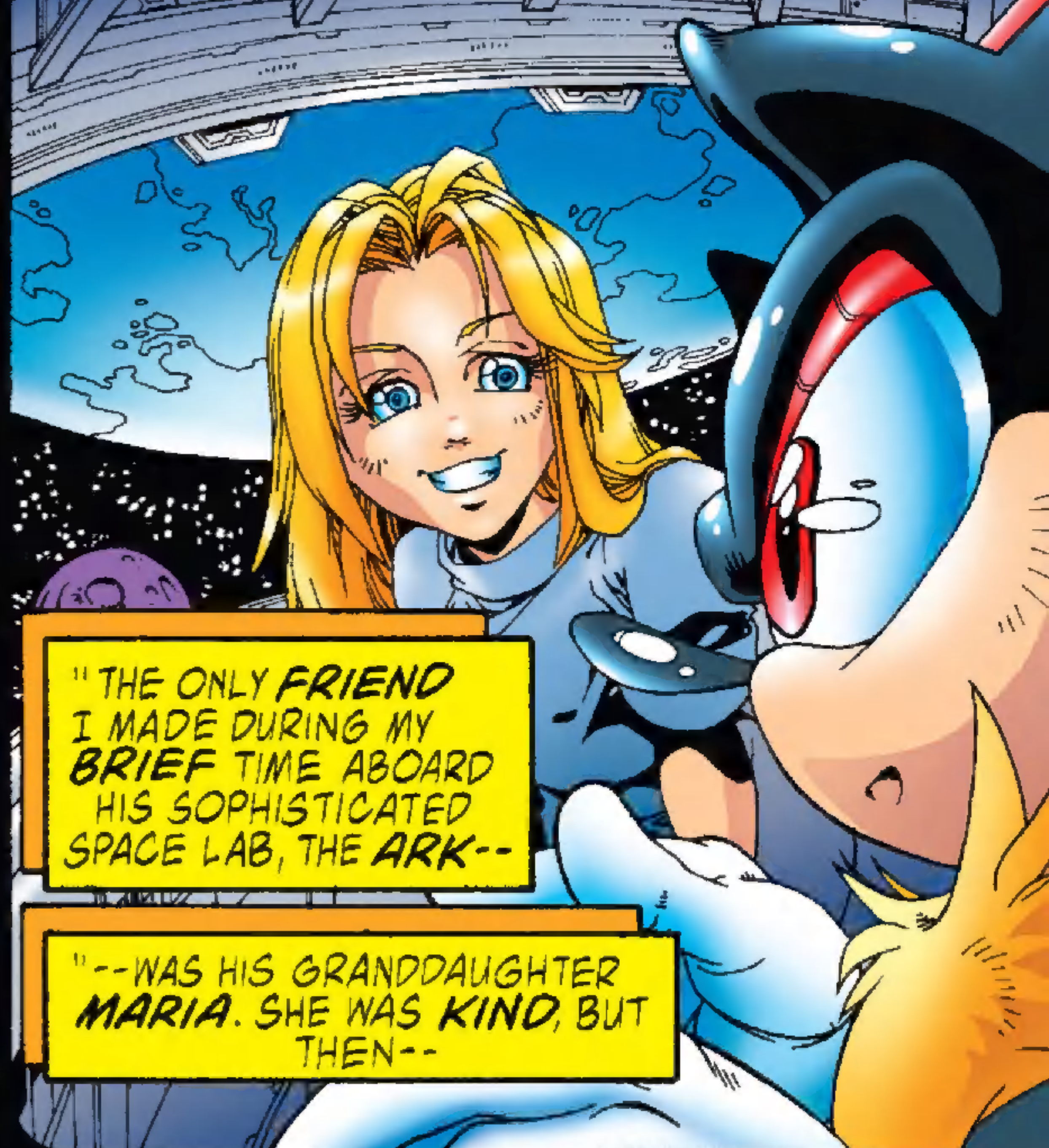
WAIT. I
REMEMBER.

I AM SHADOW
THE HEDGEHOG.



"--THE **ULTIMATE**
LIFE FORM.

"**BIO-ENGINEERED** NEARLY A
CENTURY AGO BY **PROFESSOR**
GERALD AS A WEAPON FOR THE
STATION SQUARE GOVERNMENT.



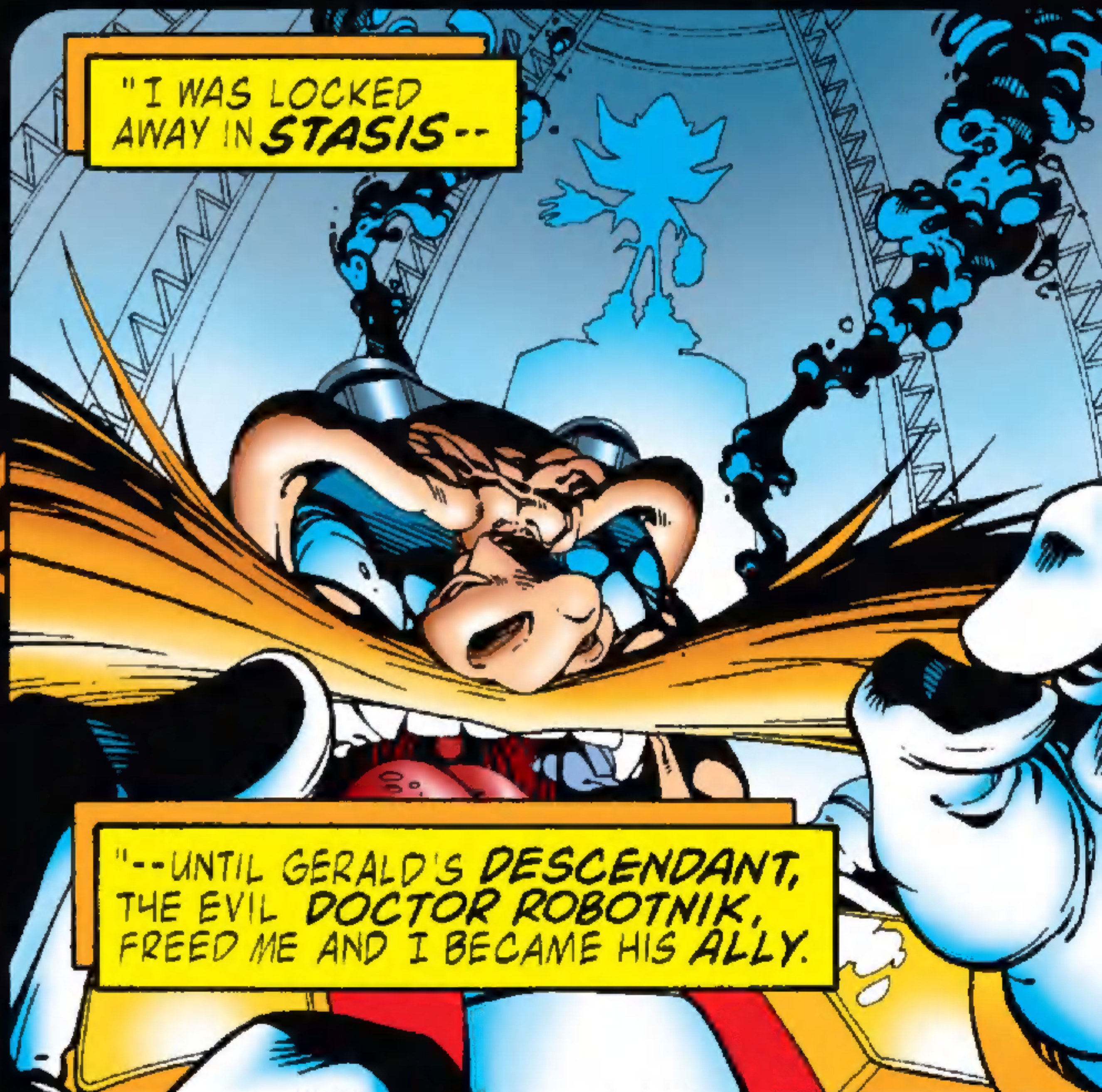
"THE ONLY **FRIEND**
I MADE DURING MY
BRIEF TIME ABOARD
HIS SOPHISTICATED
SPACE LAB, THE **ARK--**

"--WAS HIS GRANDDAUGHTER
MARIA. SHE WAS **KIND**, BUT
THEN--



UGGH!

"**TRAGEDY.**



"I WAS LOCKED
AWAY IN **STASIS--**

"--UNTIL **GERALD'S** DESCENDANT,
THE EVIL **DOCTOR ROBOTNIK**,
FREED ME AND I BECAME HIS **ALLY.**

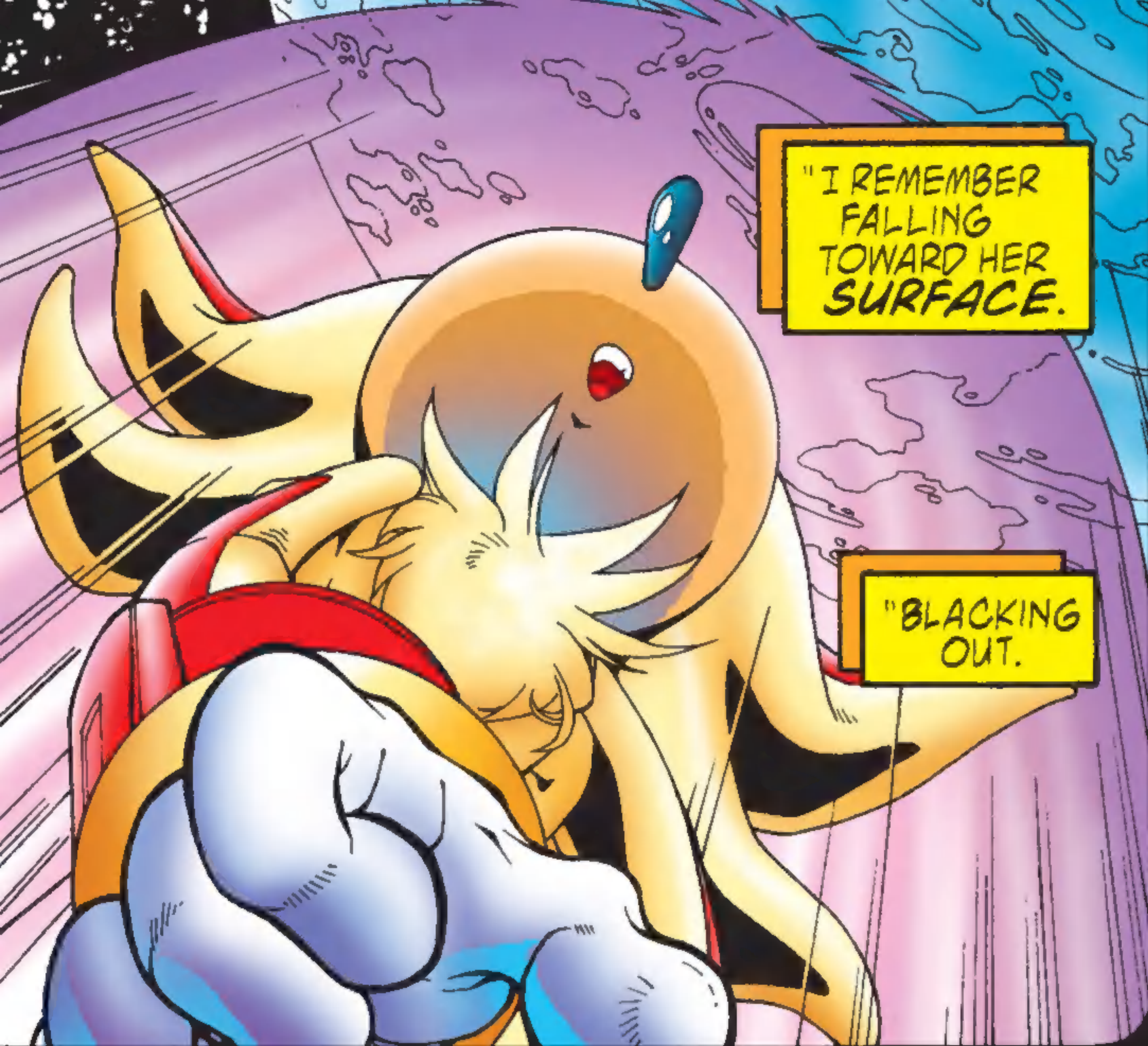


"I WANTED THE
WORLD TO **PAY**
FOR **MARIA--**

"--BUT **SONIC** THE
HEDGEHOG MADE ME
SEE THE **LIGHT--**

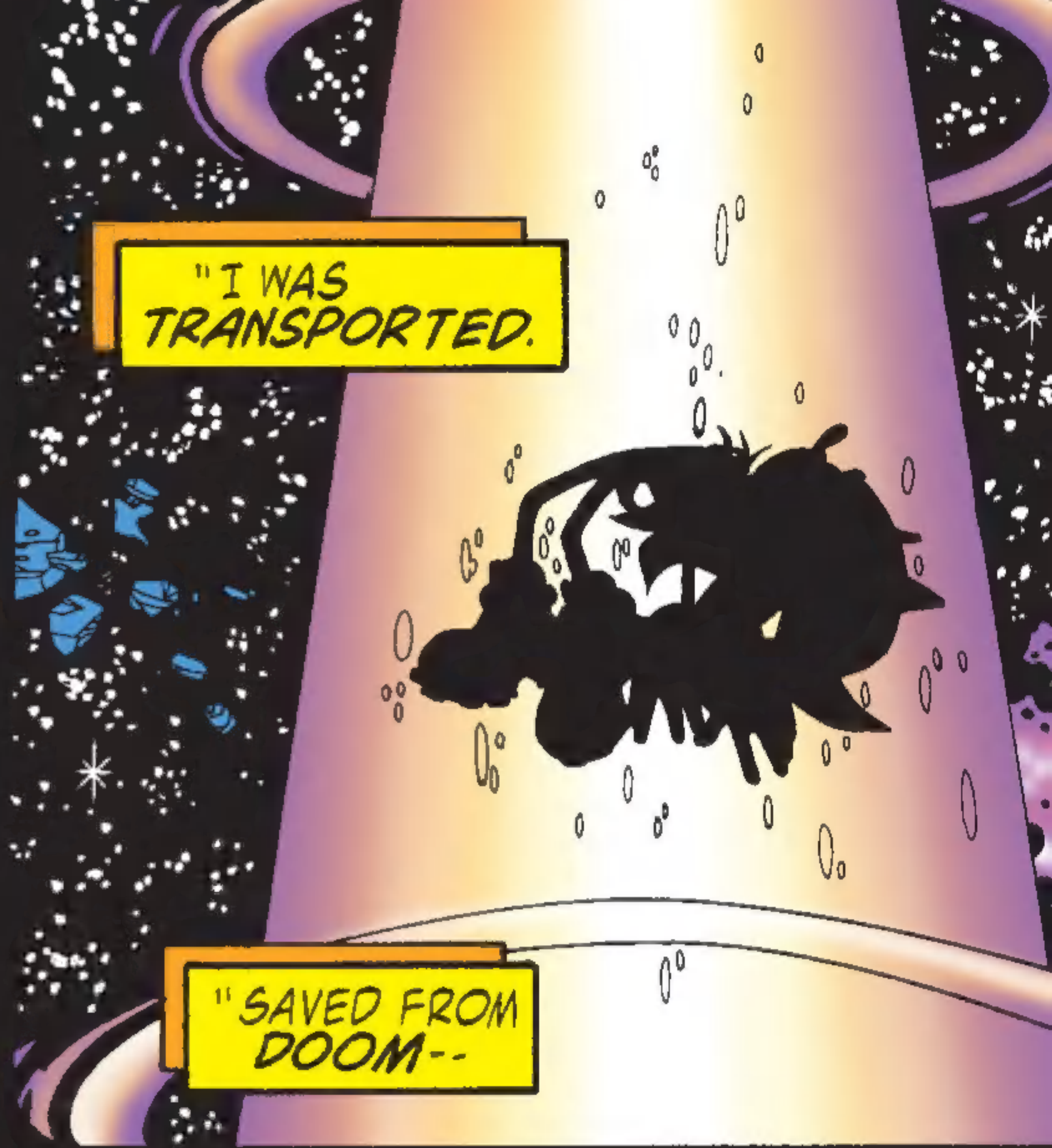


"--AND I MADE THE
ULTIMATE **SACRIFICE**
TO SAVE PLANET
MOBIUS."



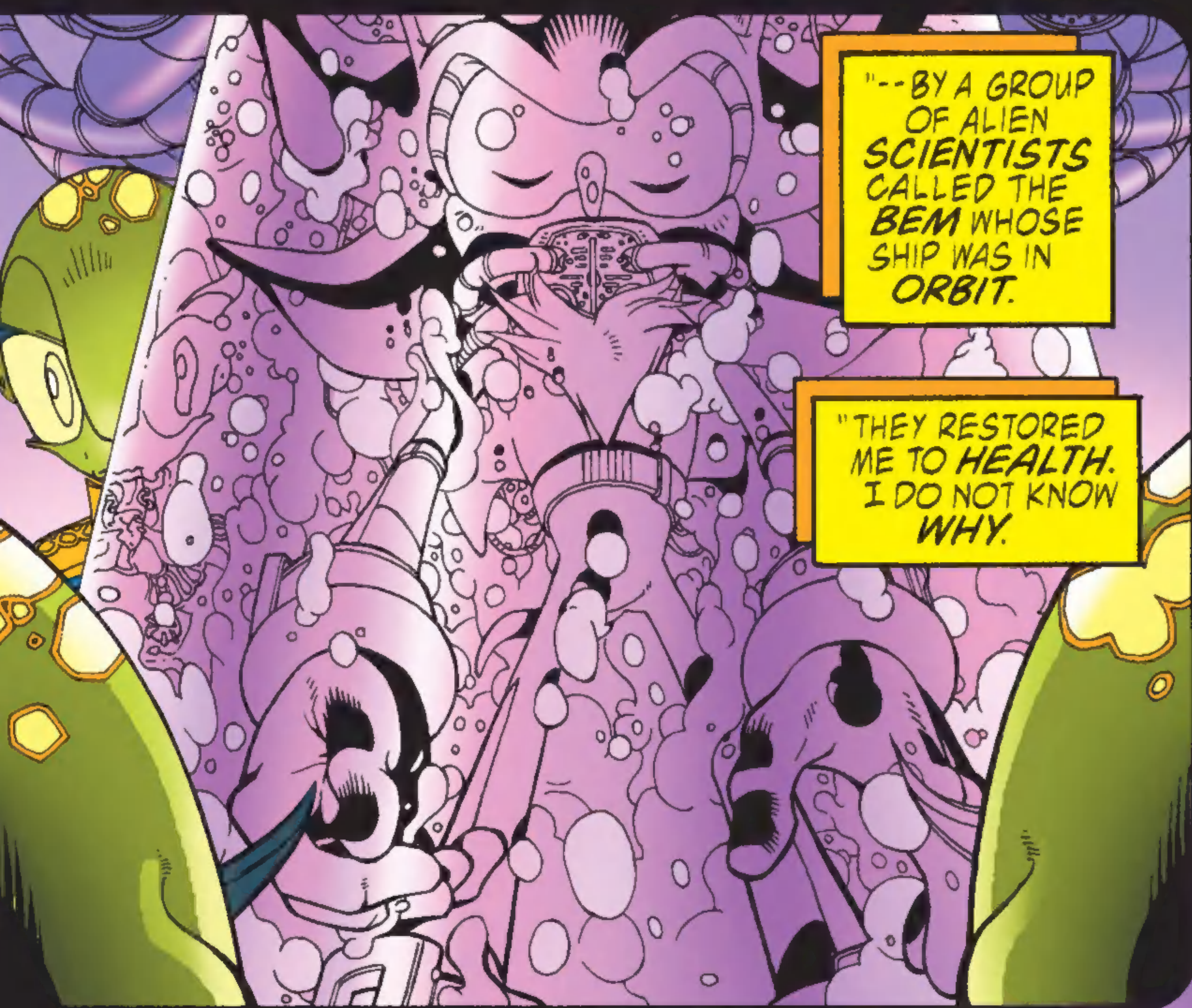
"I REMEMBER
FALLING
TOWARD HER
SURFACE."

"BLACKING
OUT."



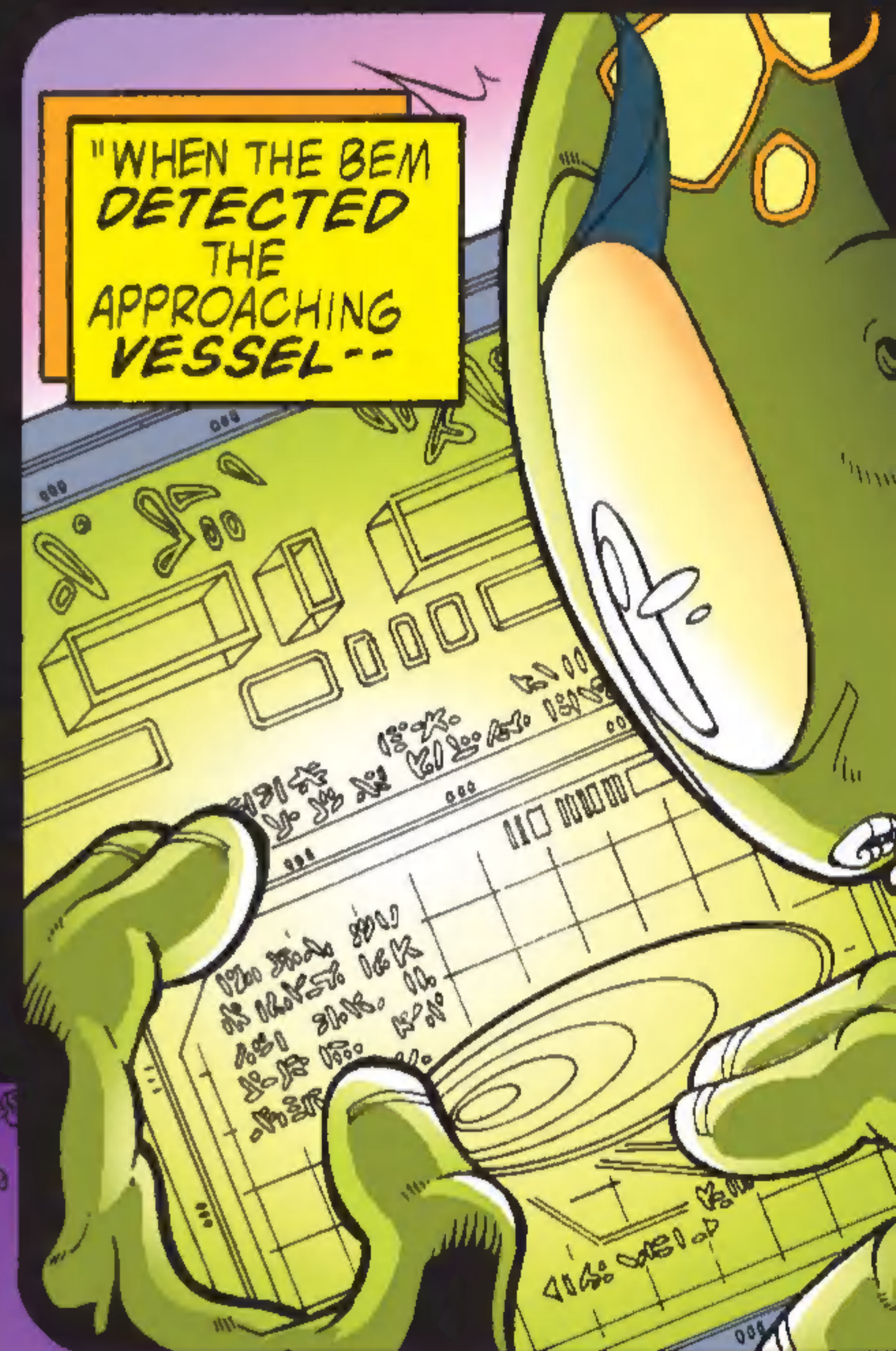
"I WAS
TRANSPORTED."

"SAVED FROM
DOOM--"

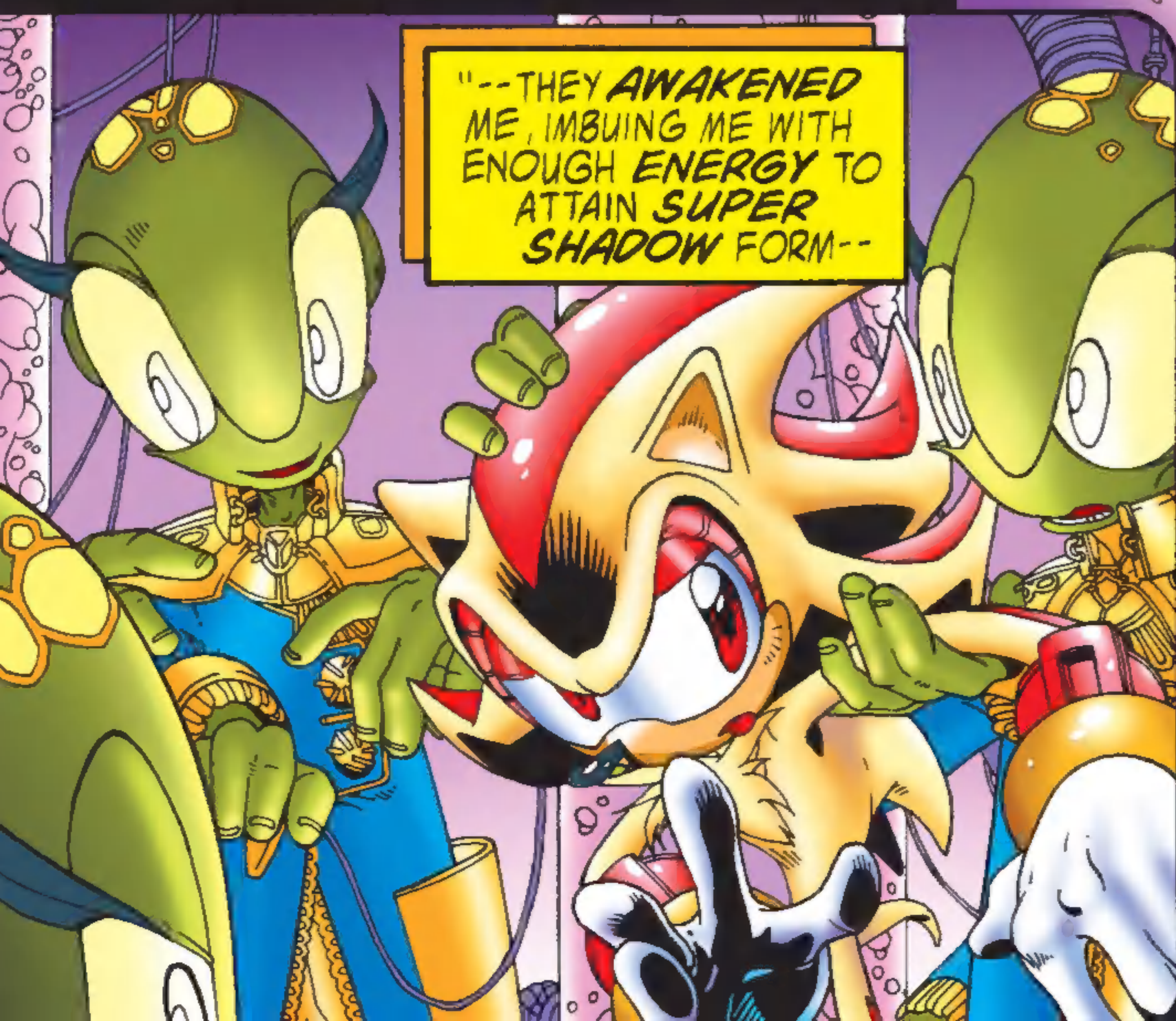


"-- BY A GROUP
OF ALIEN
SCIENTISTS
CALLED THE
BEM WHOSE
SHIP WAS IN
ORBIT."

"THEY RESTORED
ME TO HEALTH.
I DO NOT KNOW
WHY."



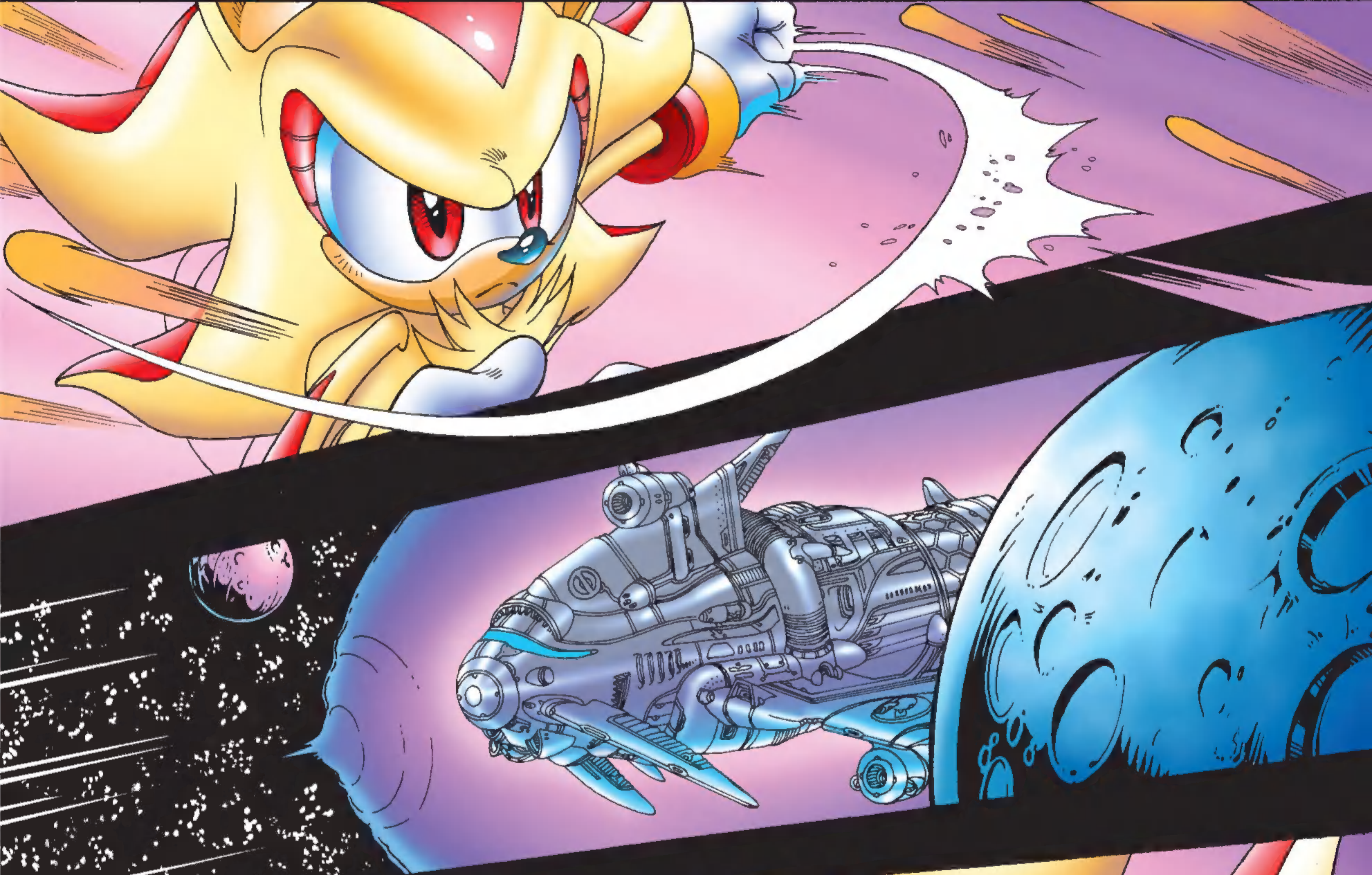
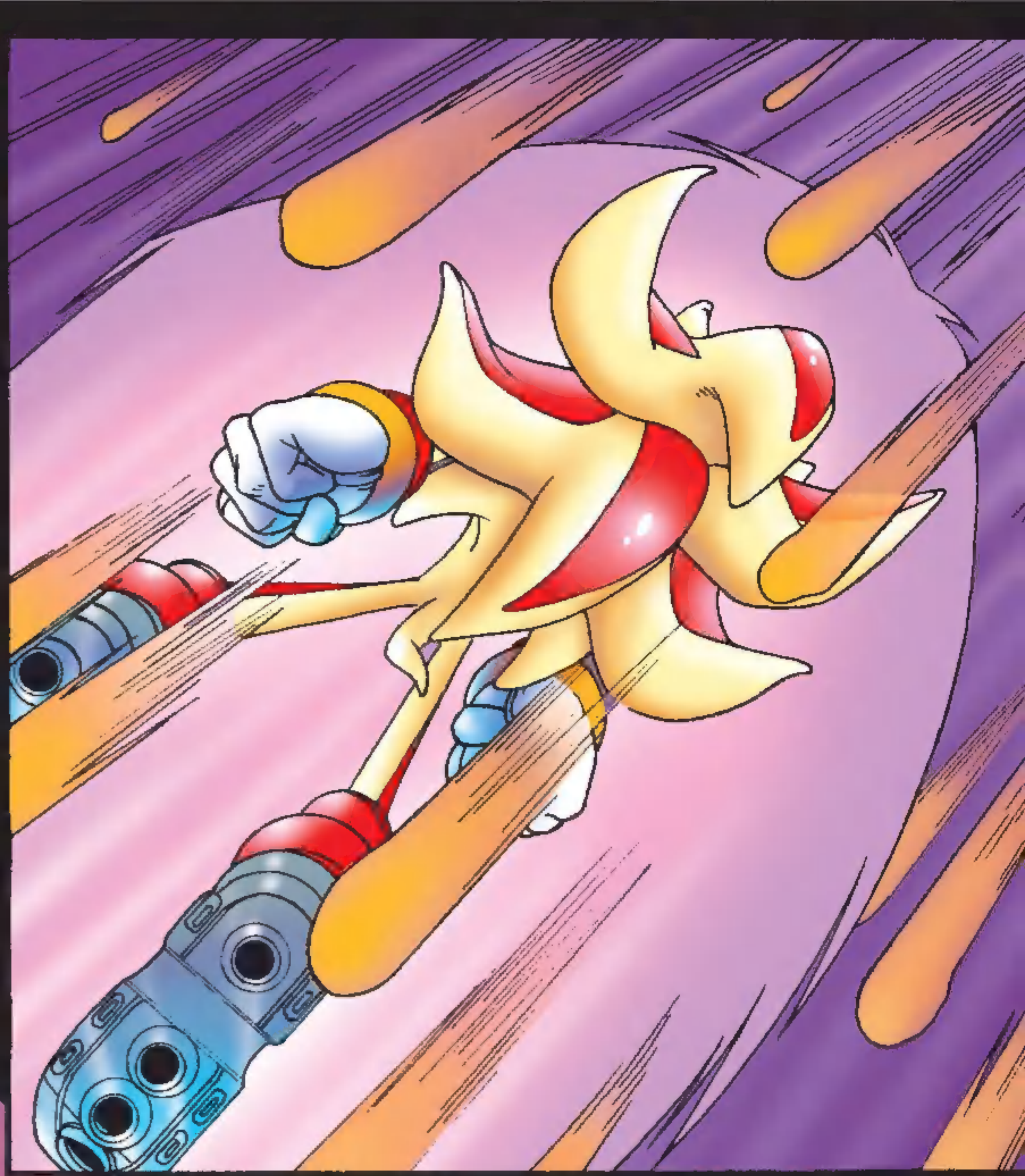
"WHEN THE BEM
DETECTED
THE
APPROACHING
VESSEL--"

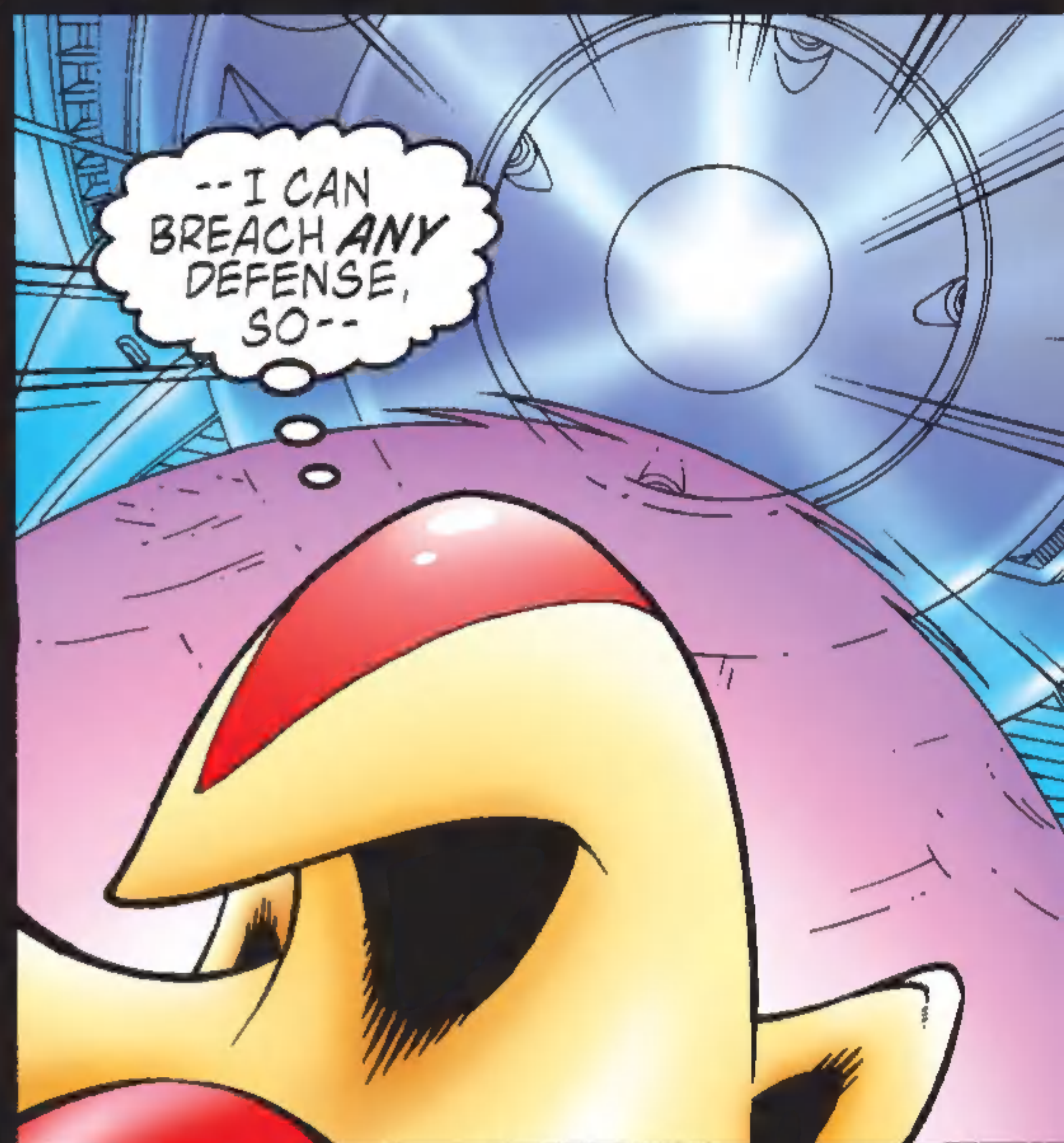
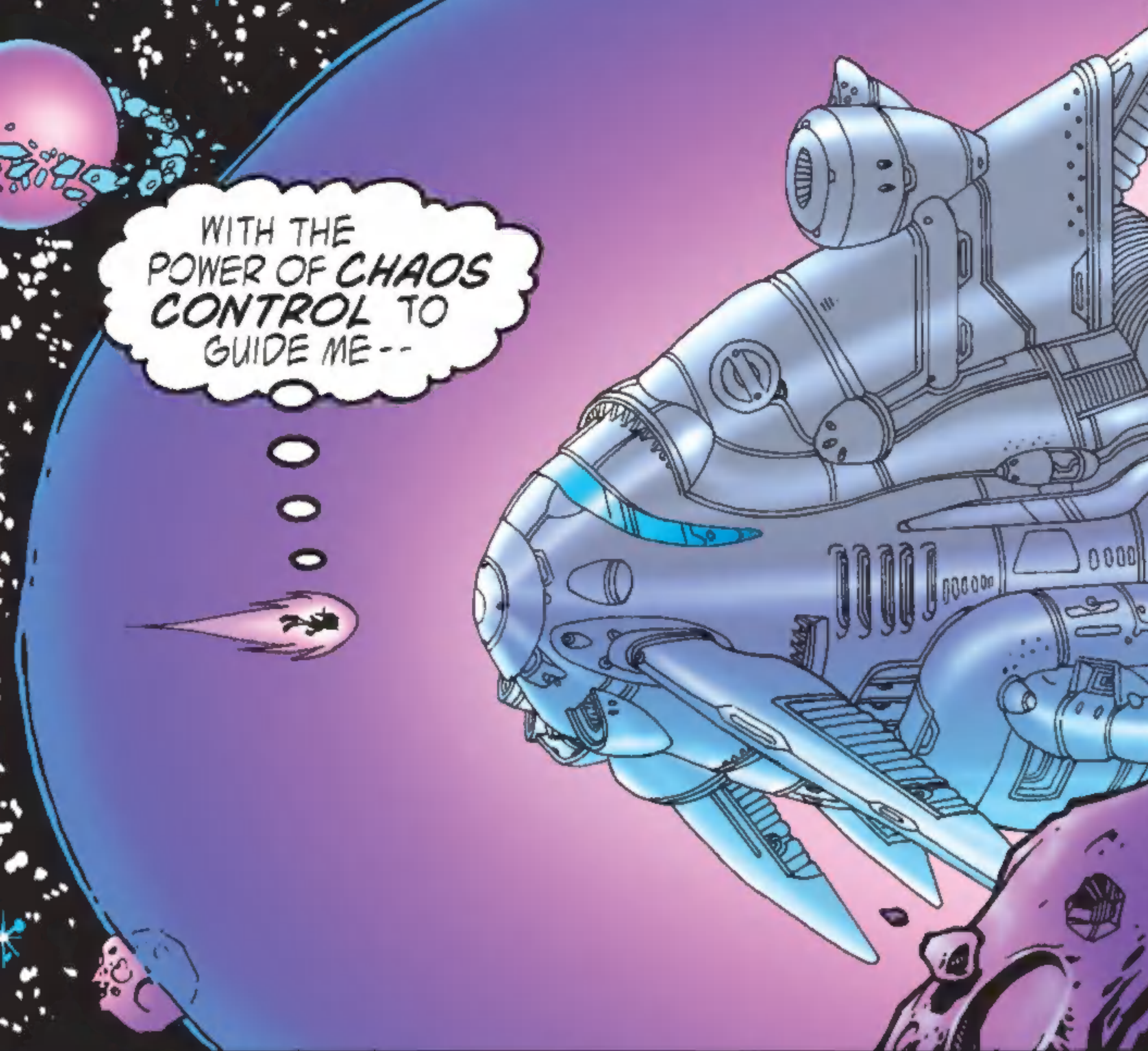


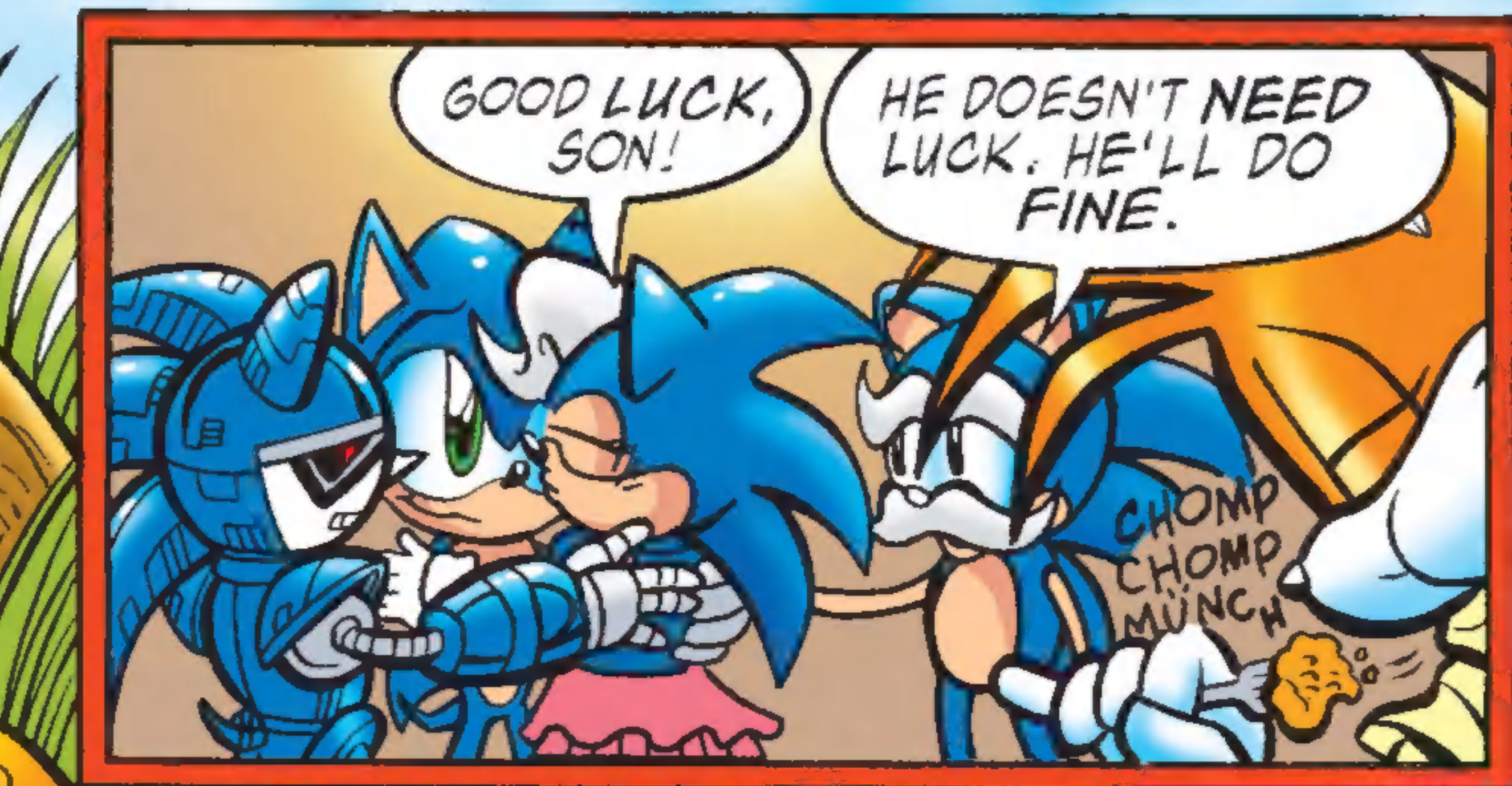
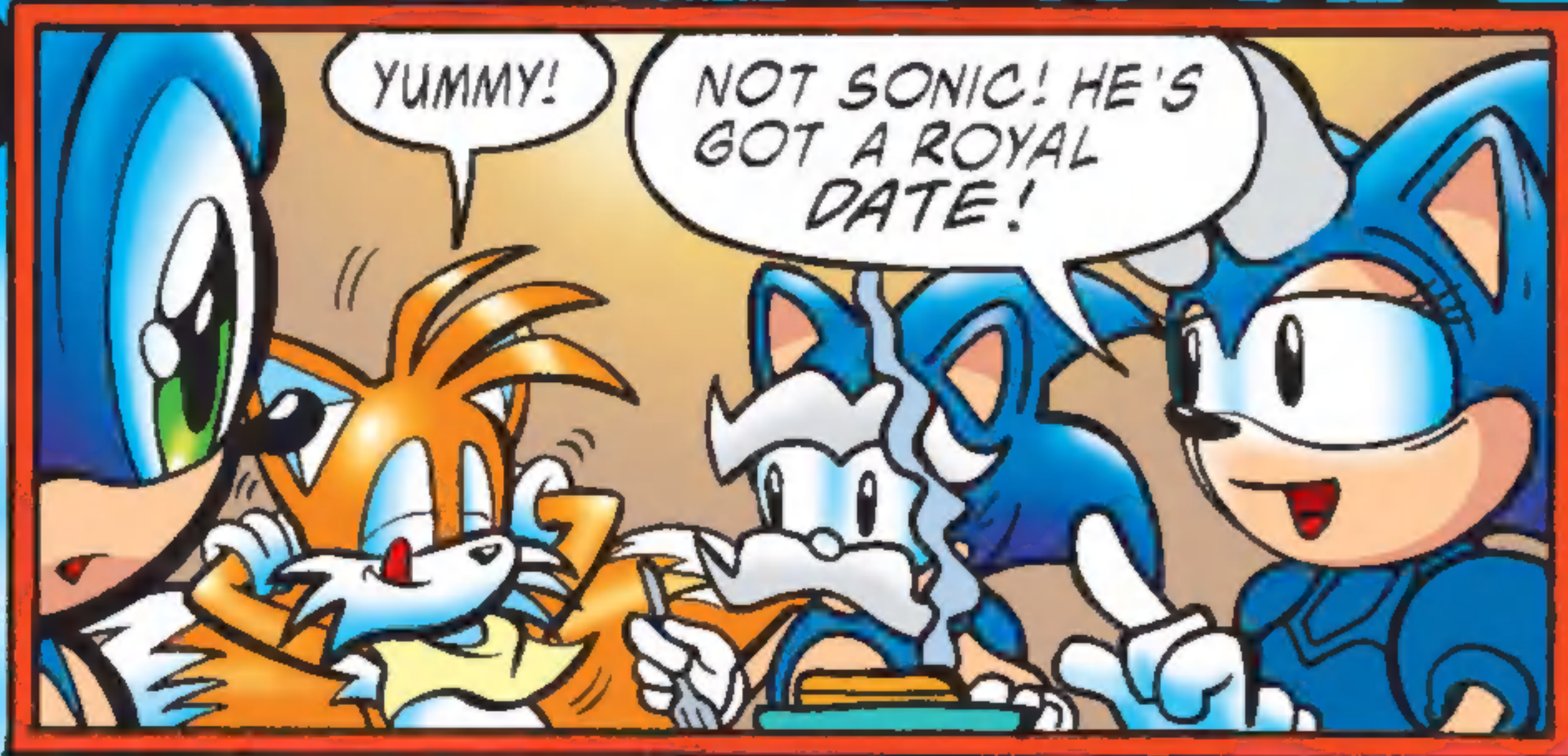
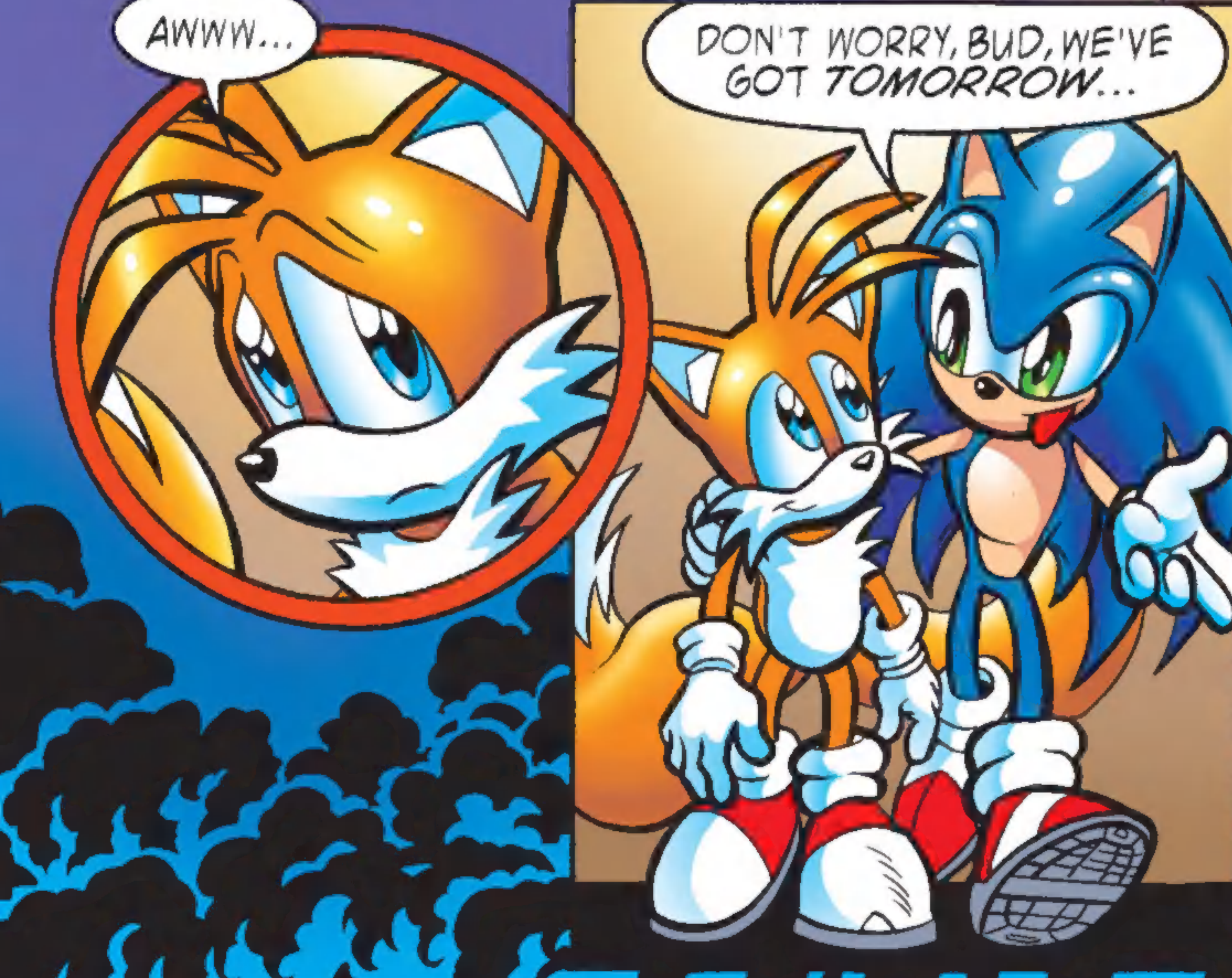
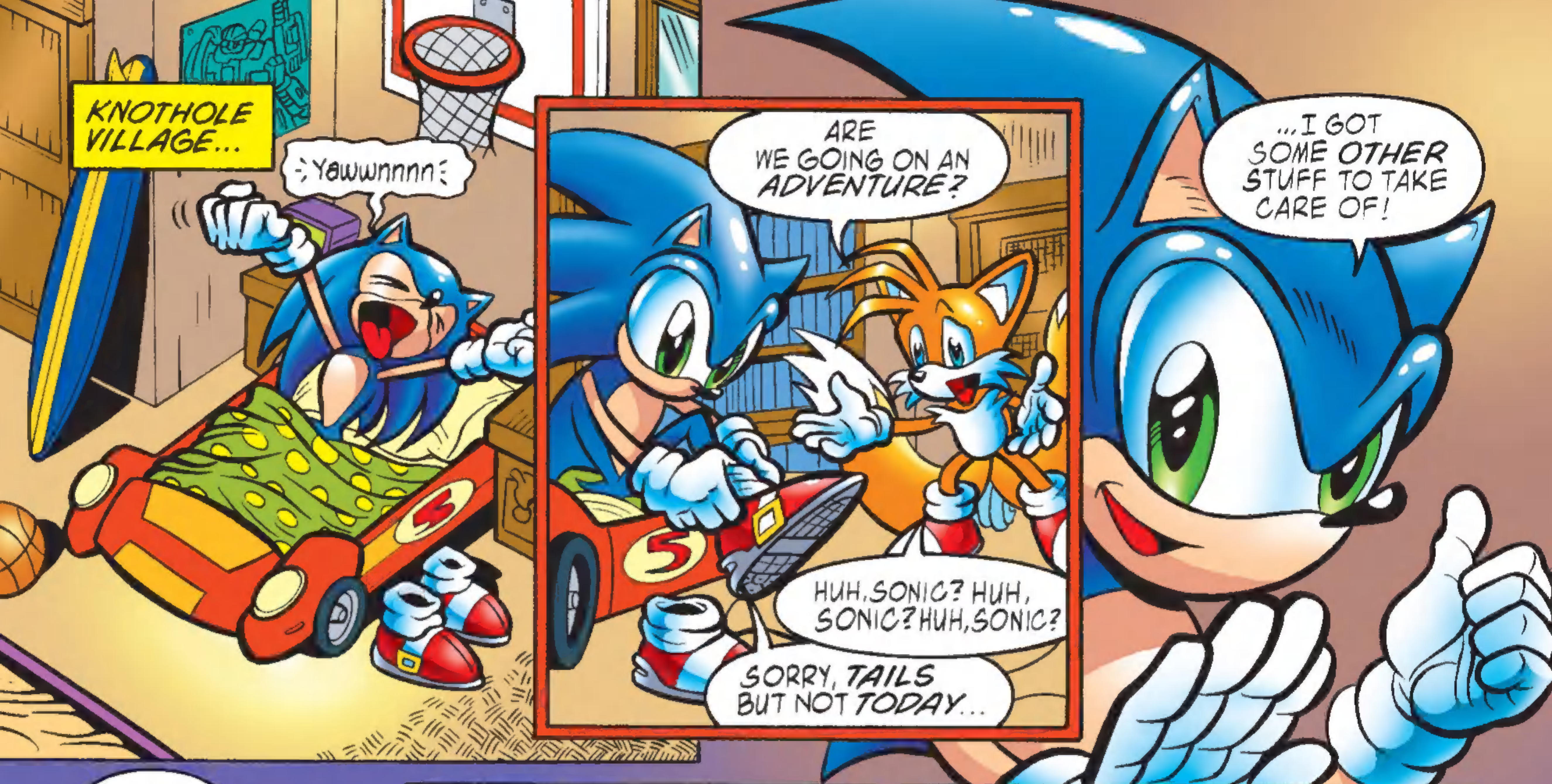
"-- THEY AWAKENED
ME, IMBUING ME WITH
ENOUGH ENERGY TO
ATTAIN SUPER
SHADOW FORM--"

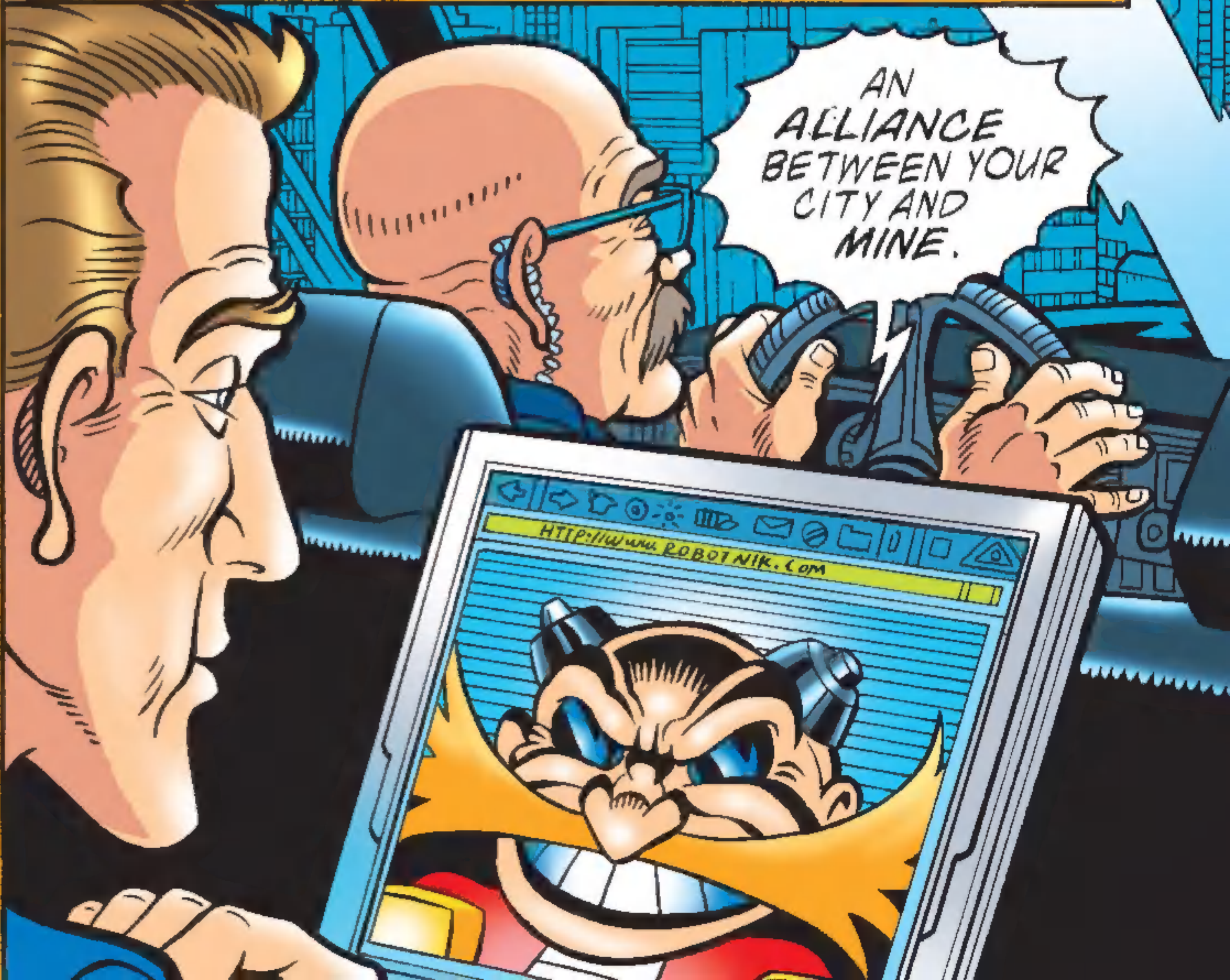
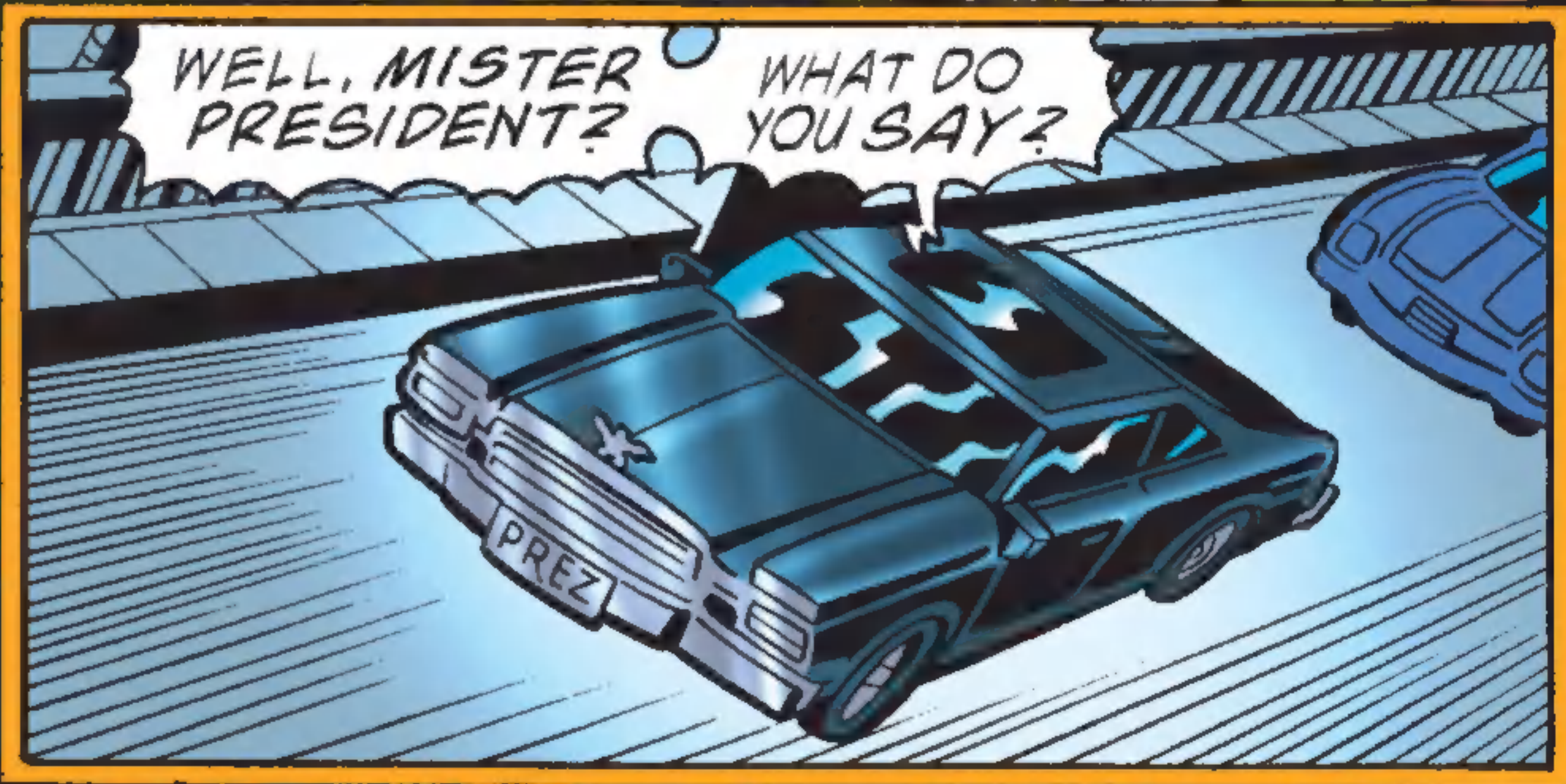
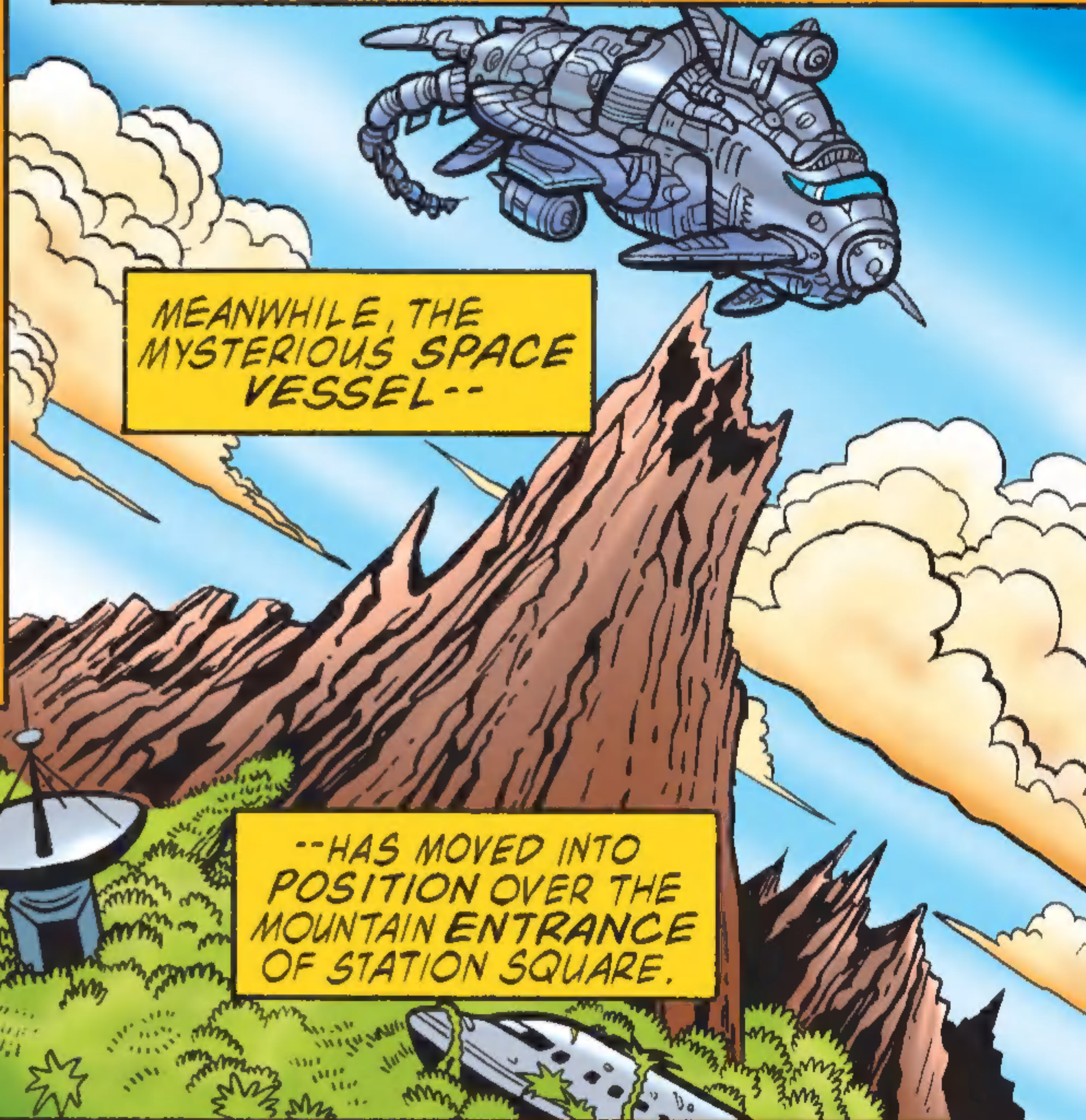
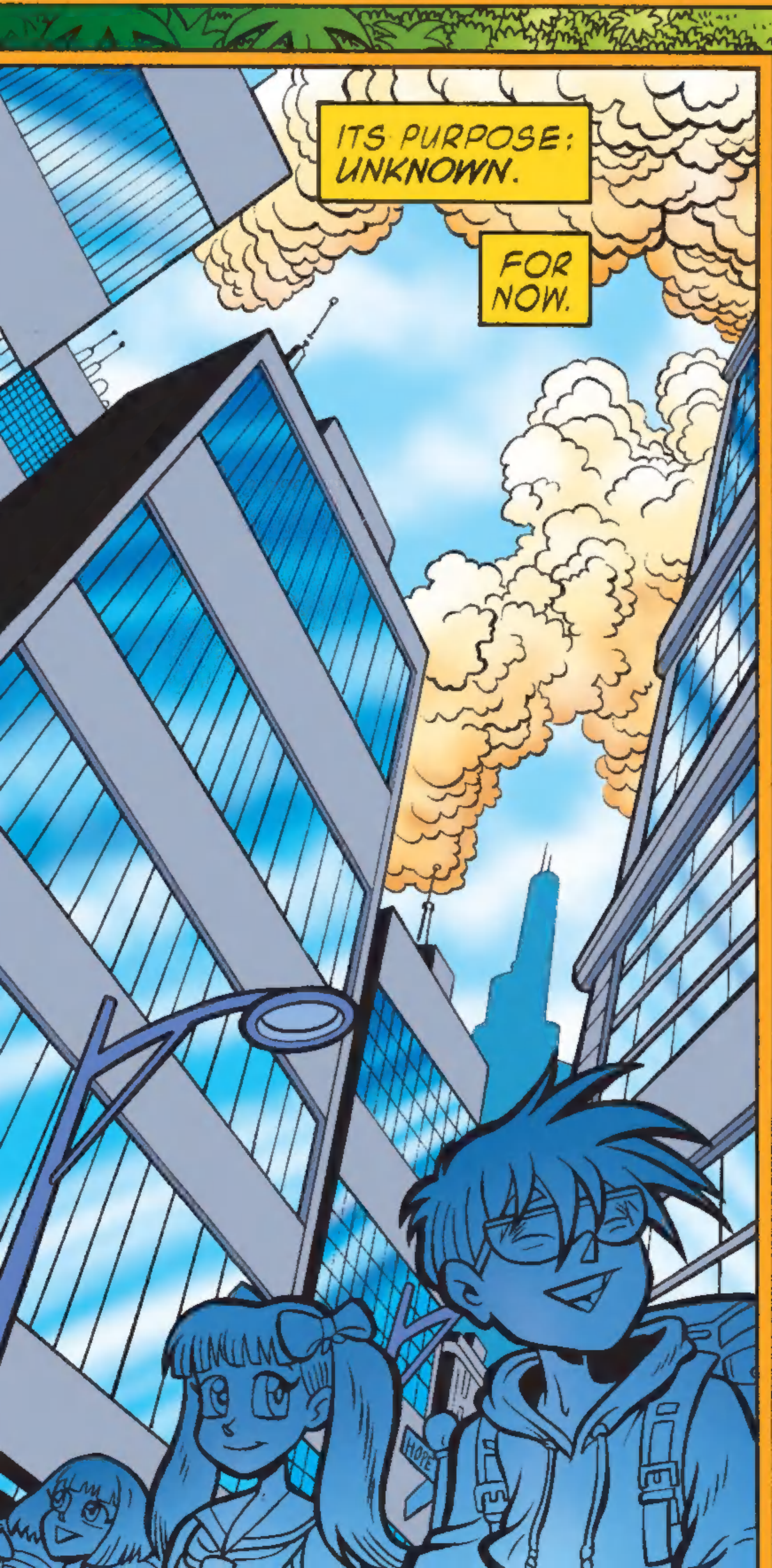
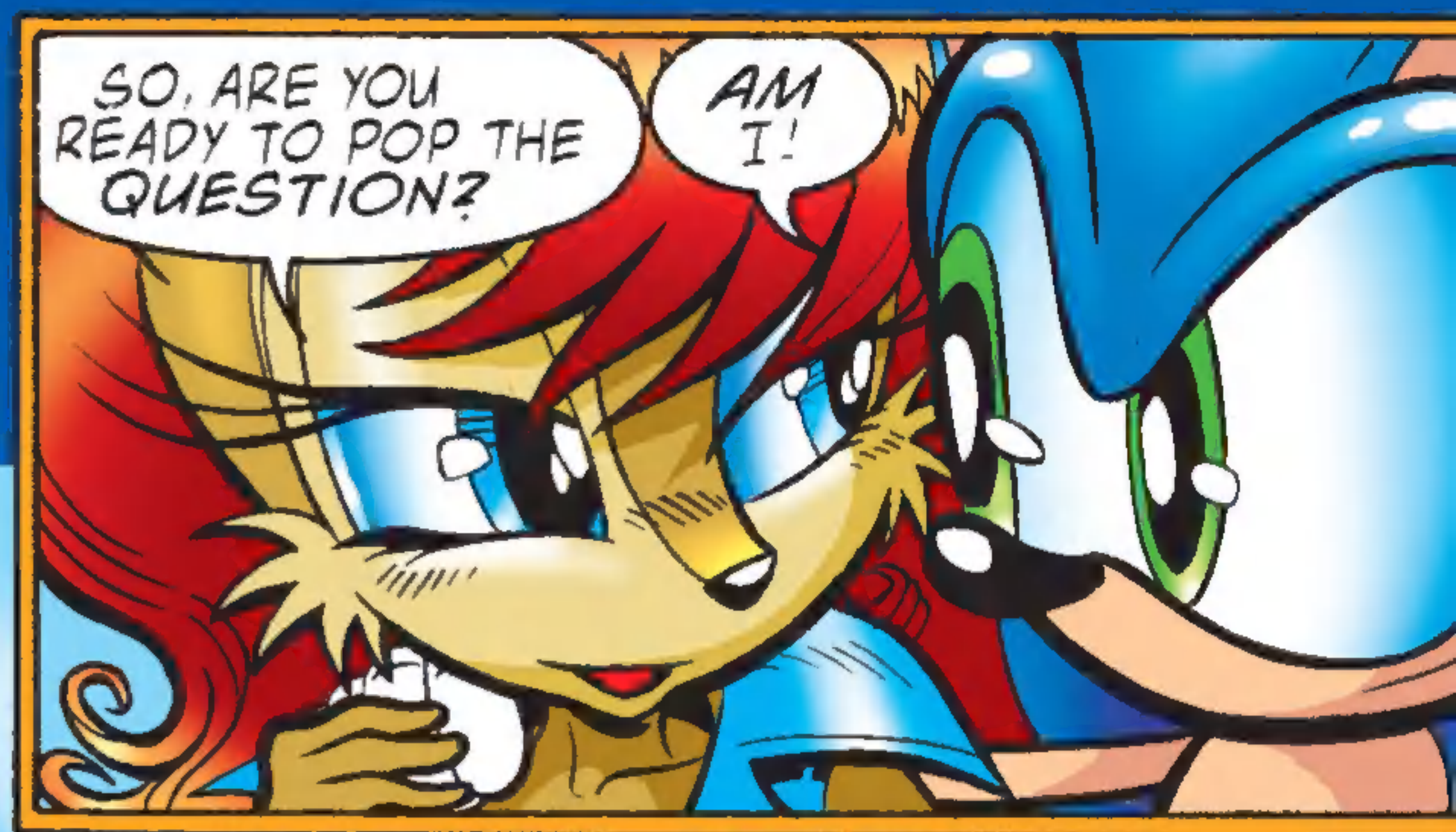


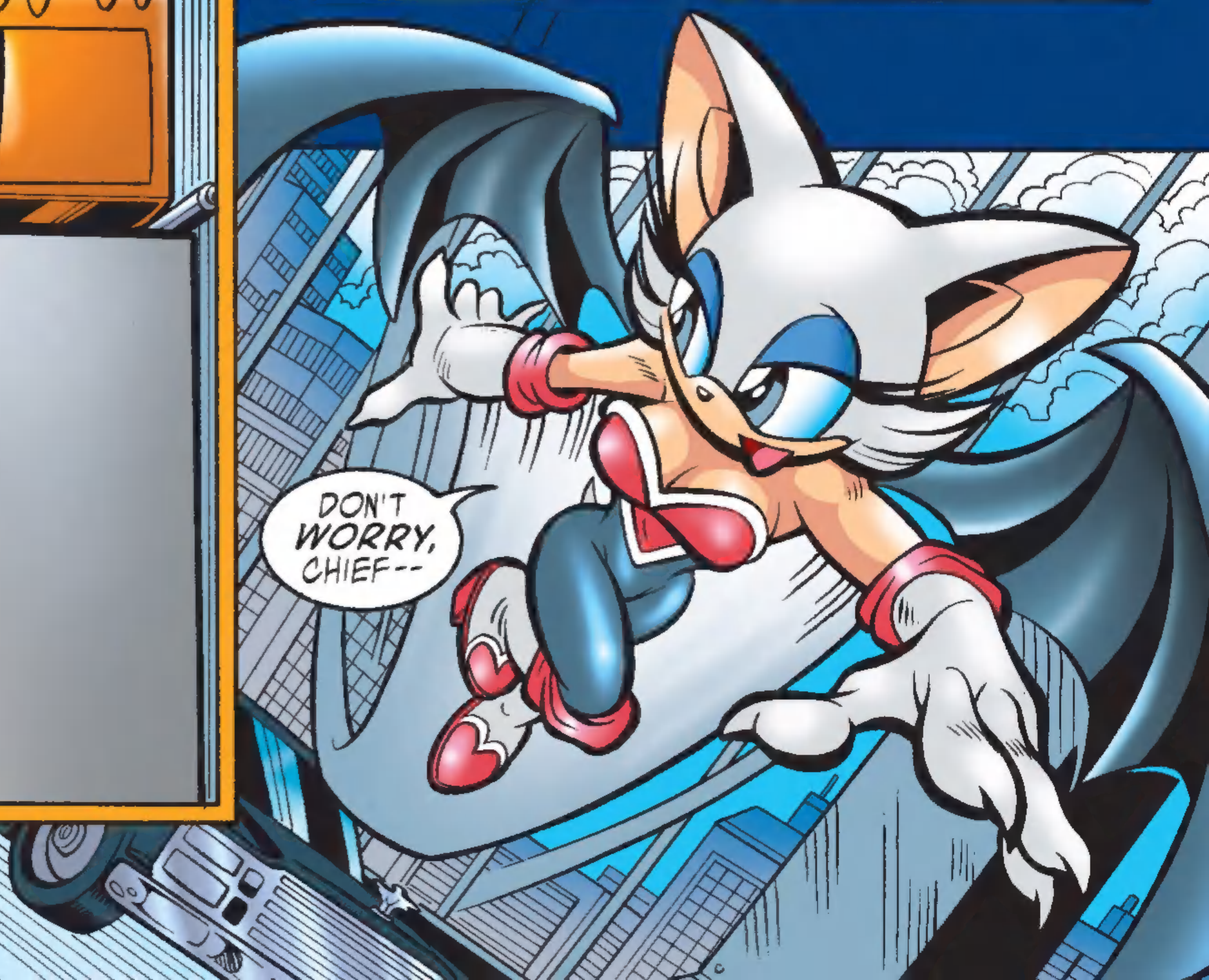
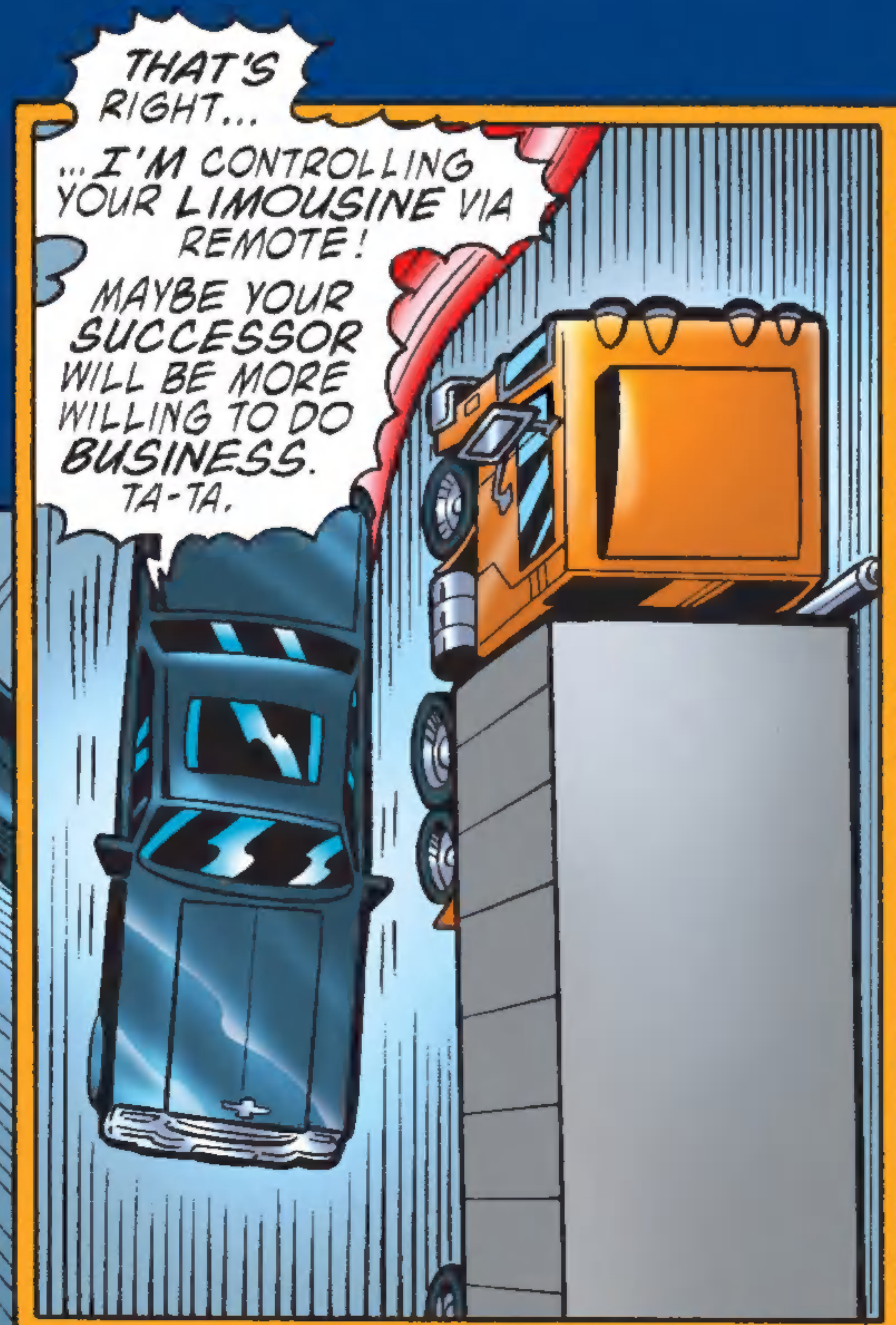
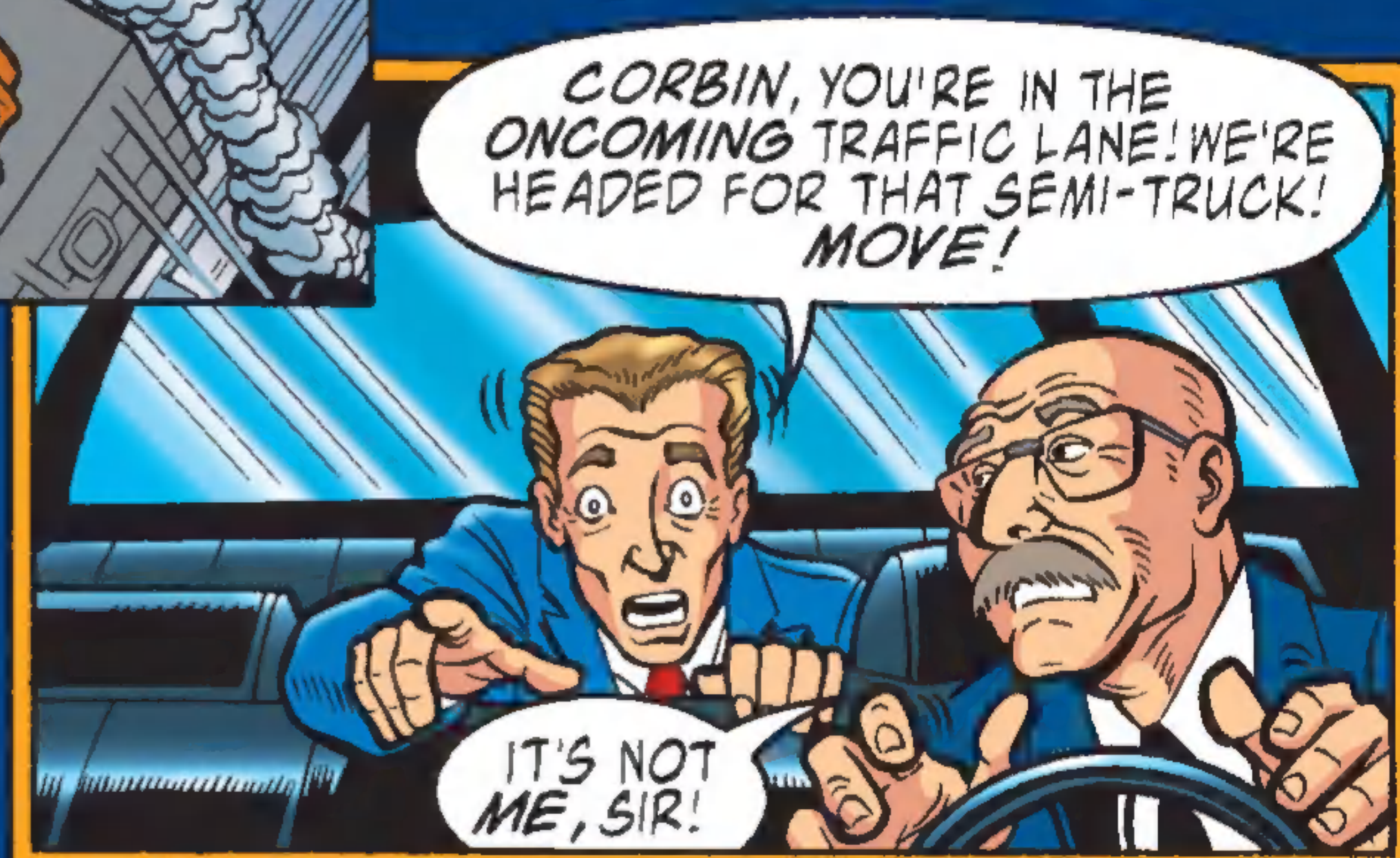
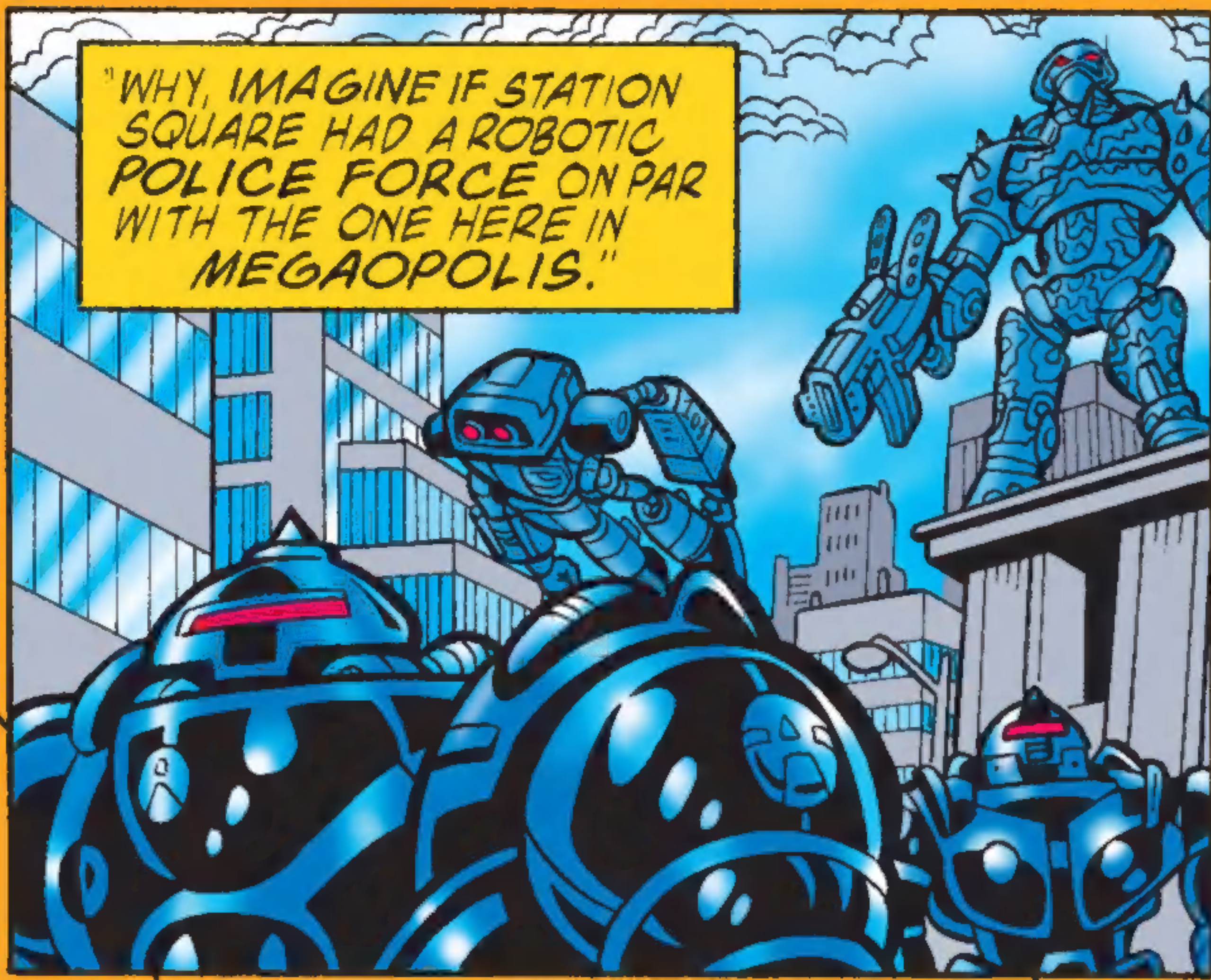
-- TO BATTLE
THIS NEW **THREAT**
WHILE THEY MADE
THEIR **ESCAPE**."

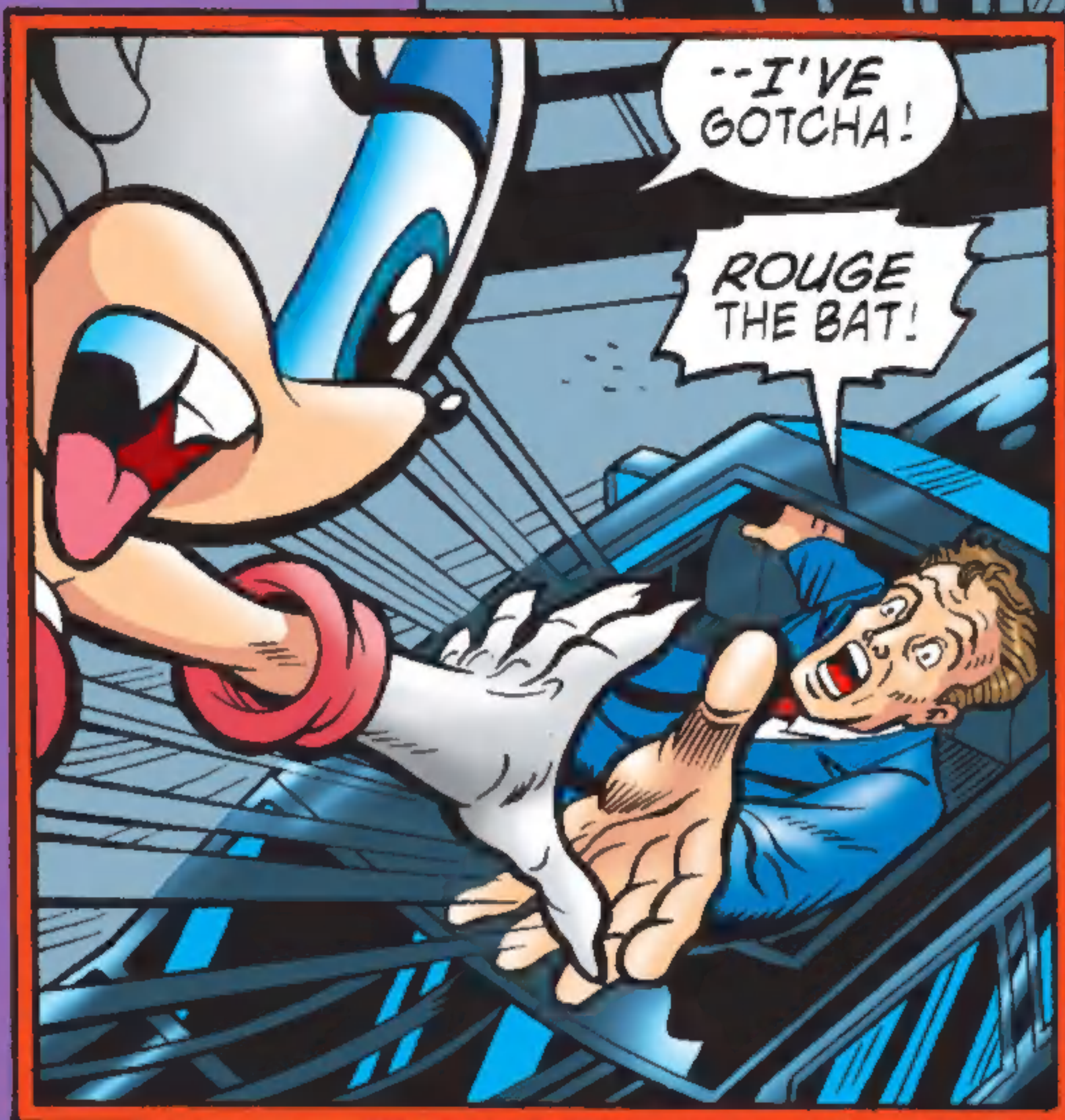












--I'VE GOTCHA!

ROUGE THE BAT!

YES, SIR
YOU COULDN'T
ASK FOR A BETTER
FIELD OP FOR A
RESCUE OF THIS
NATURE!

CORBIN!



DON'T WORRY,
I'LL SAVE
HIM--

--BUT GETTING
YOU TO SAFETY IS
MY FIRST
PRIORITY!

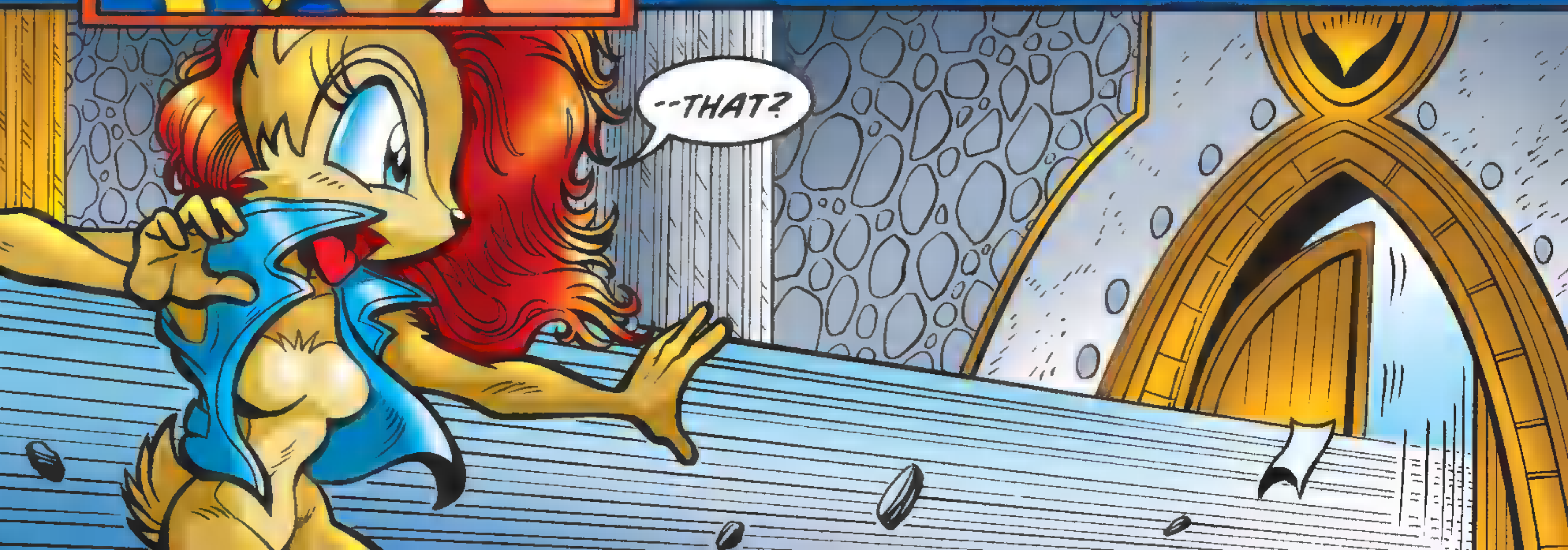
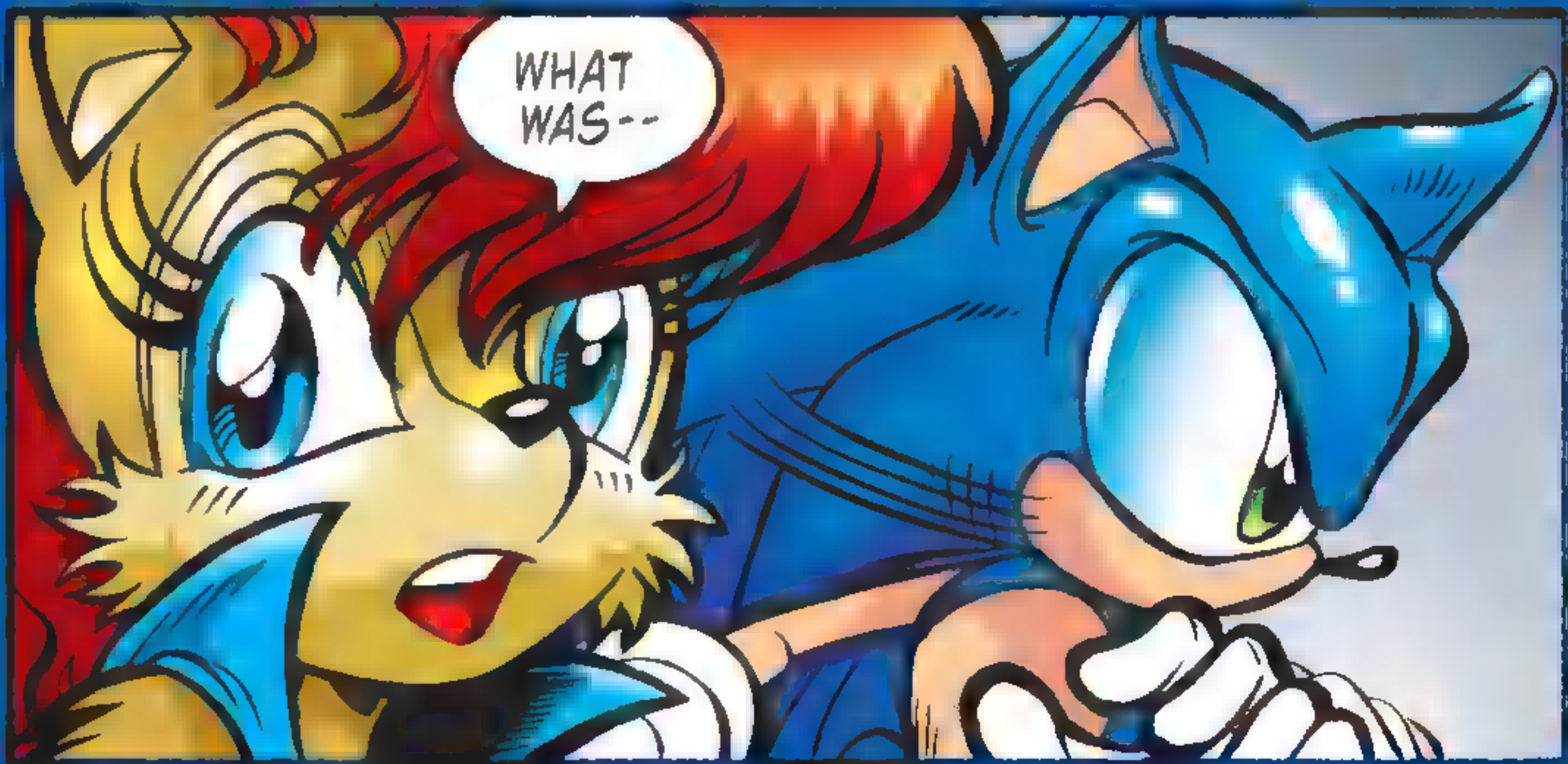
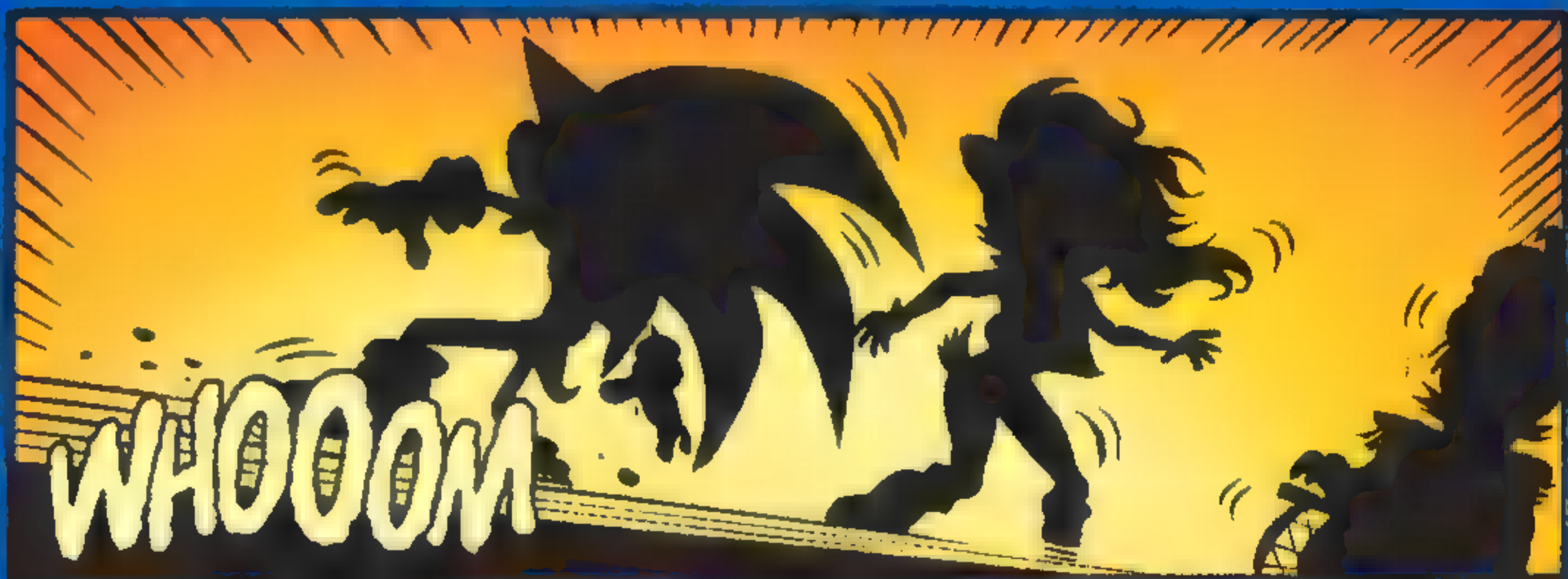
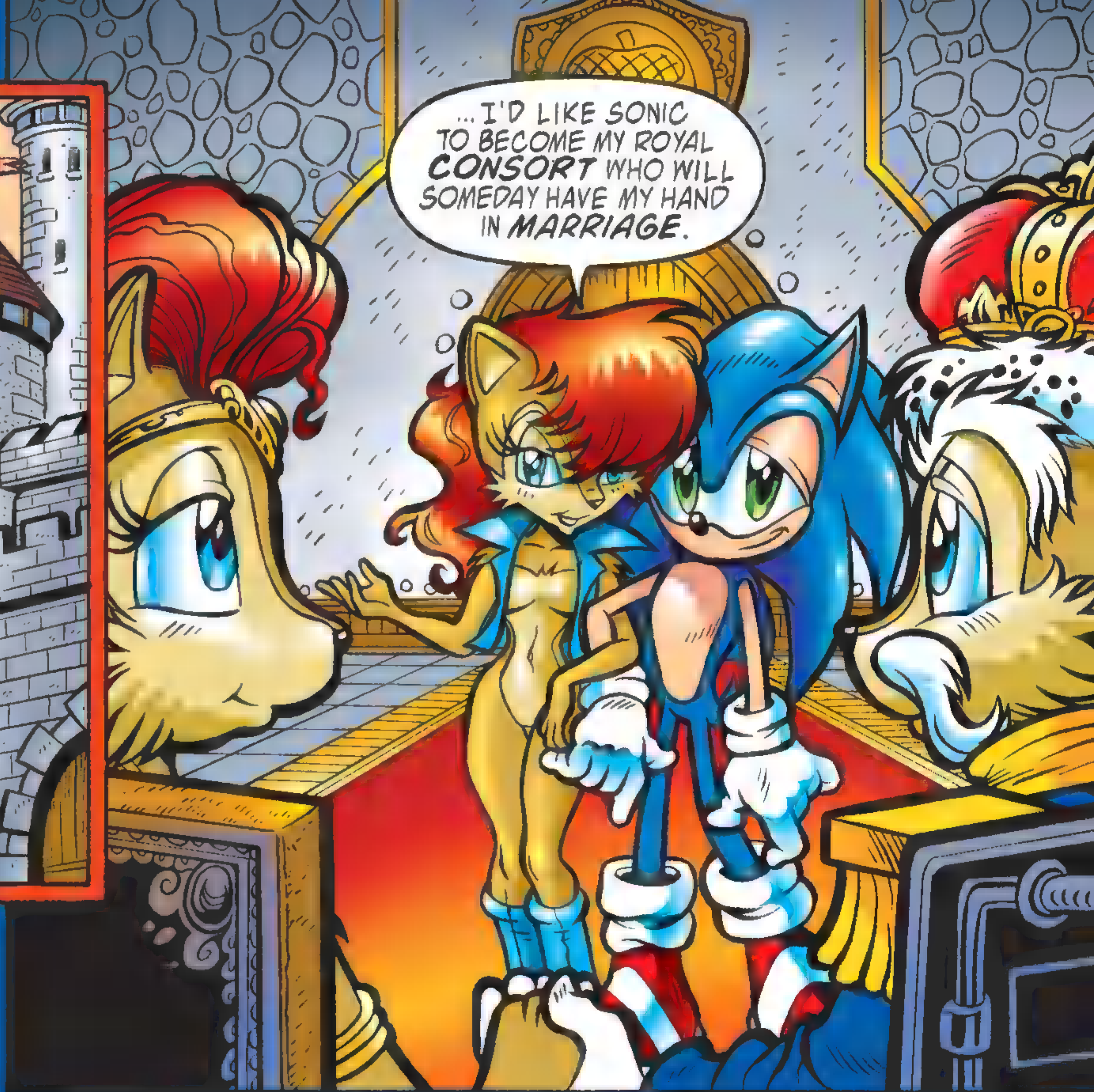


WHAT
NOW?!

DEAR LORD!
THE SKY-DOME--

--IT'S
SHATTERED



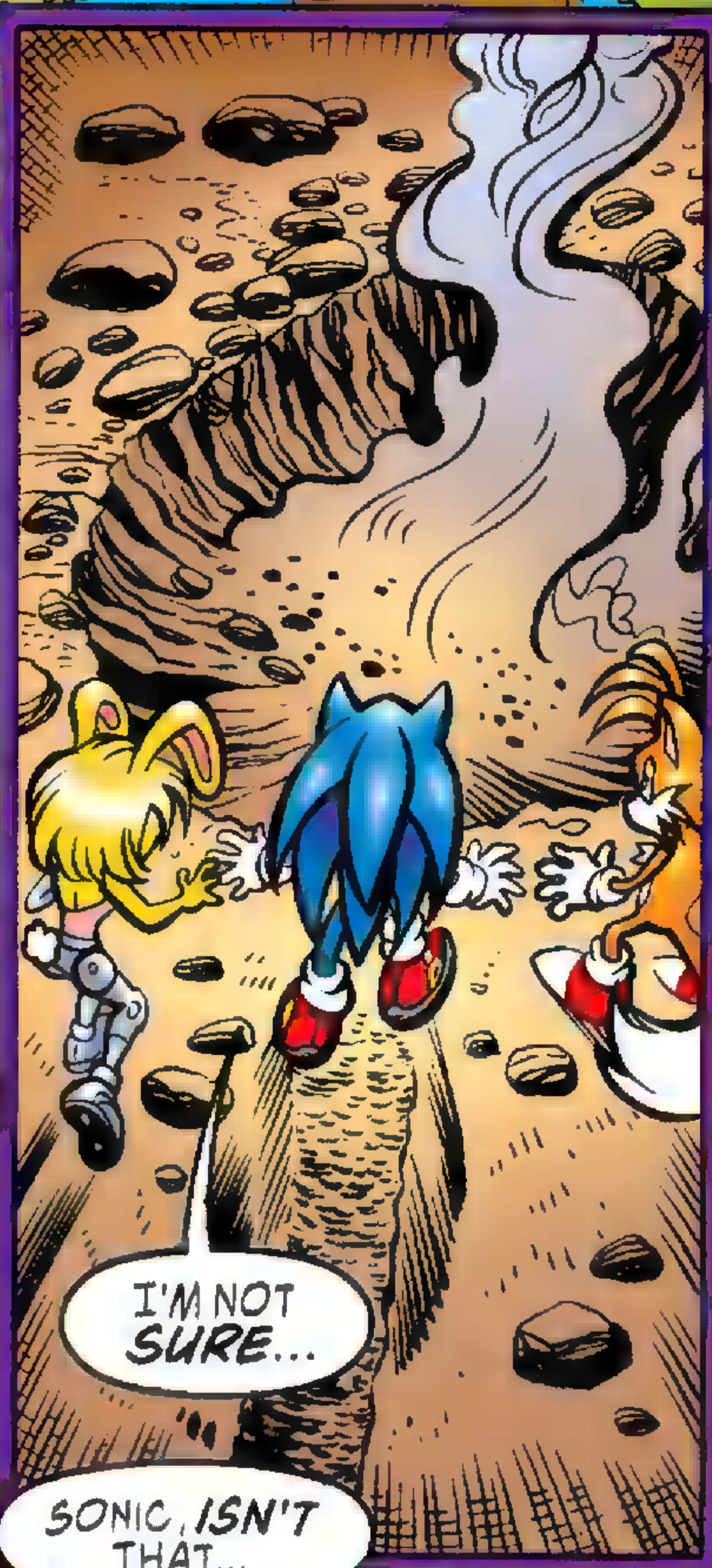




GOOD QUESTION.

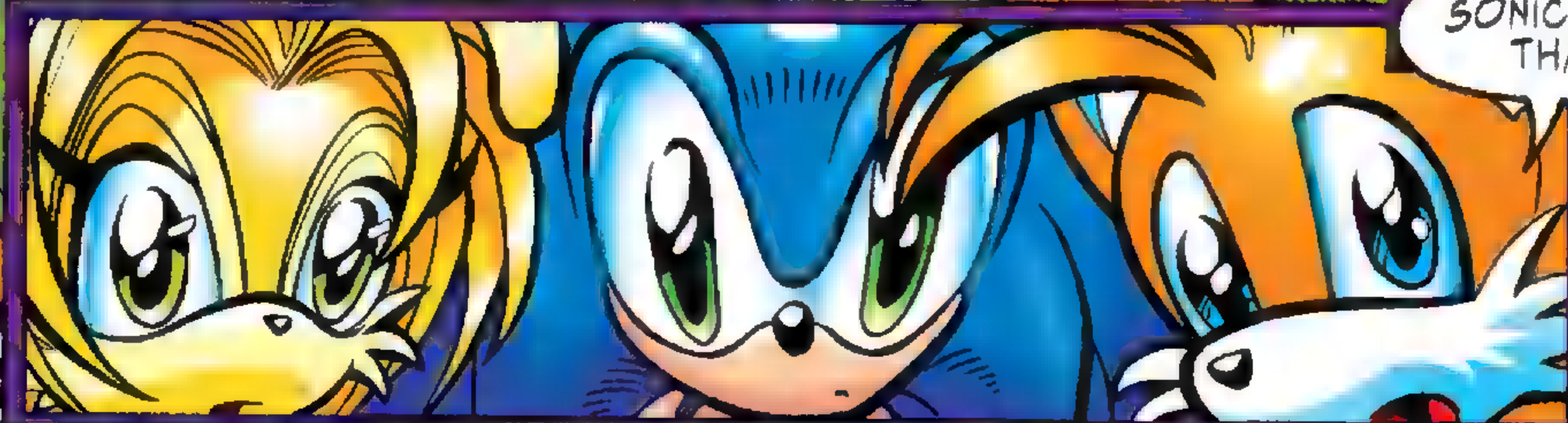
WE HEARD A RUCKUS SUGAH-HOG

WHAT'S GOING ON?

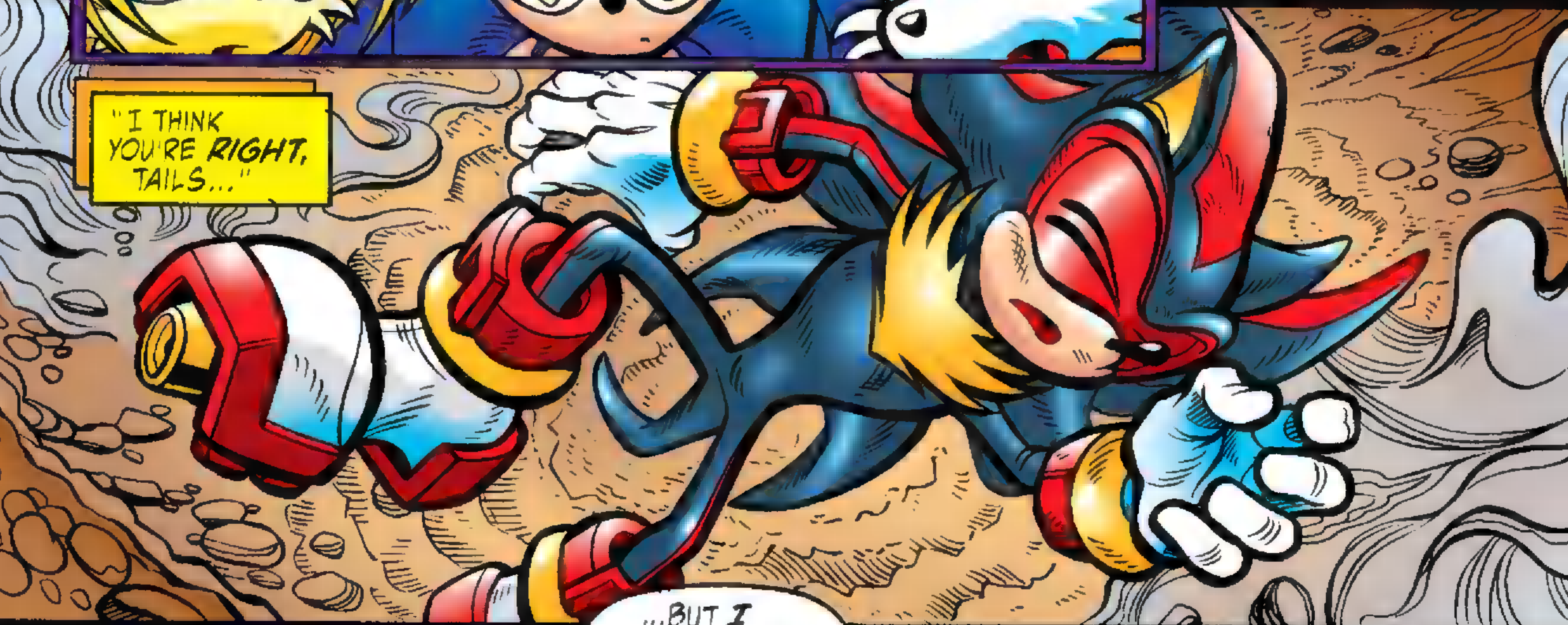


I'M NOT SURE...

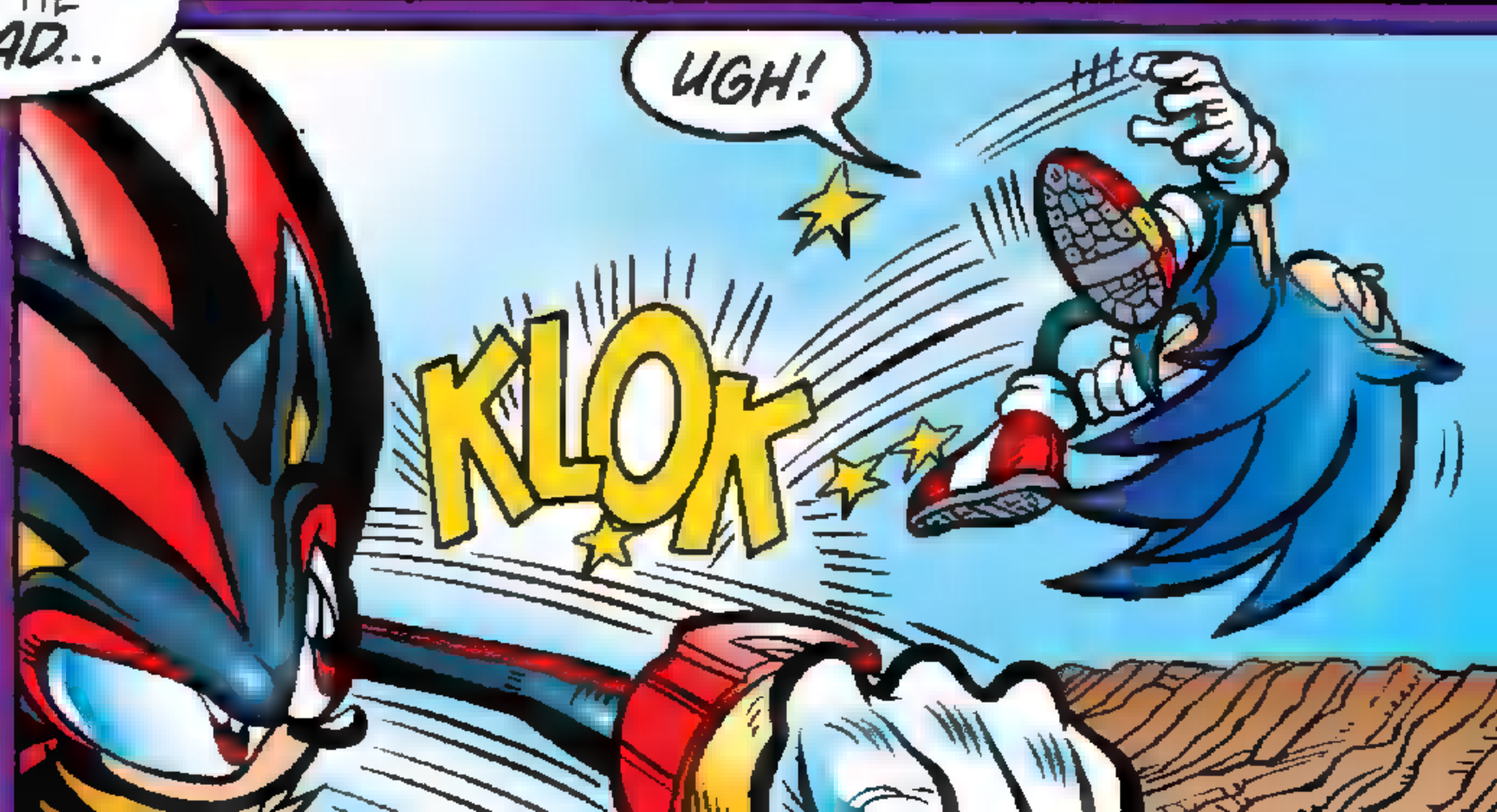
SONIC, ISN'T THAT...



"I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, TAILS..."



...BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD...



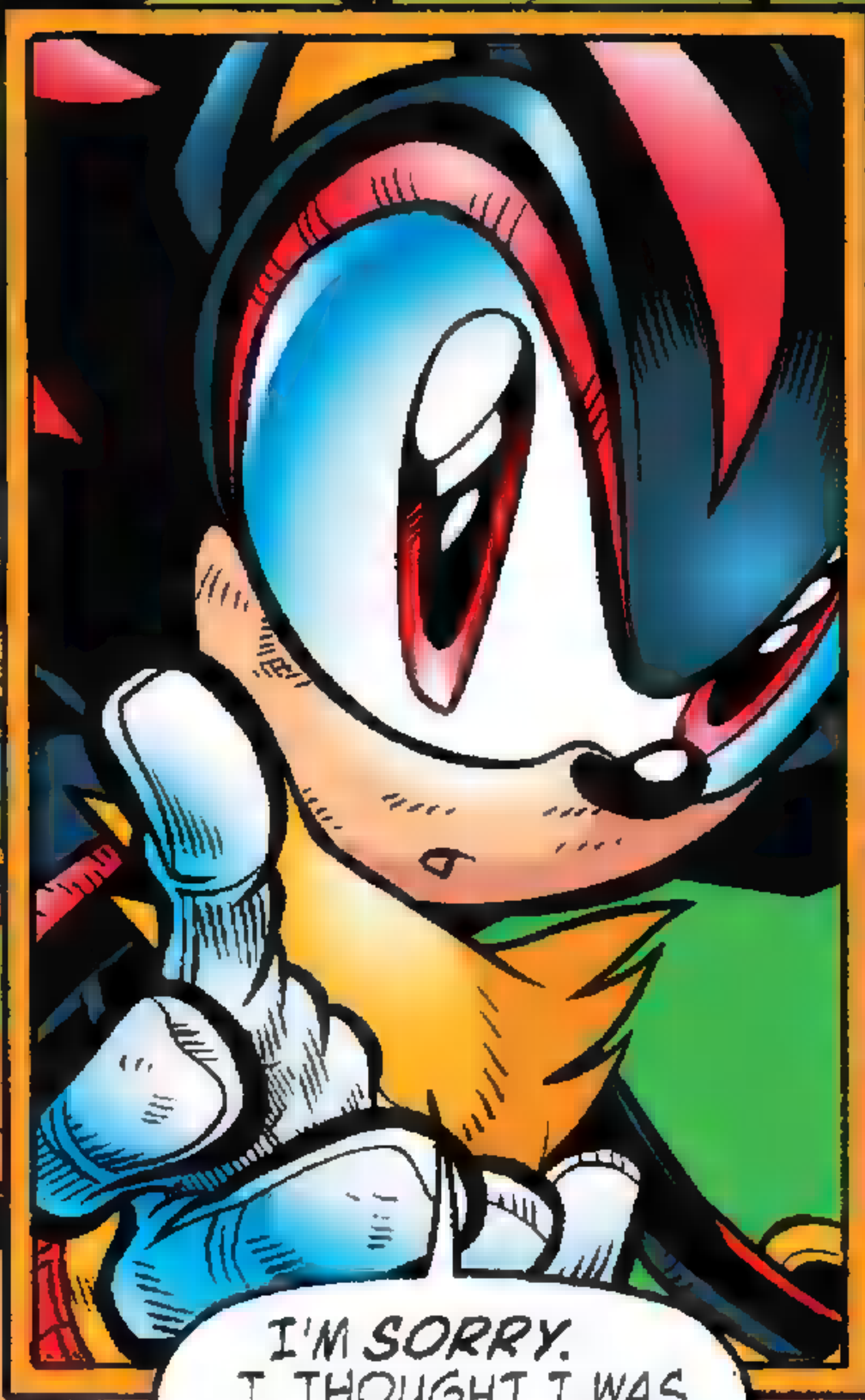
UGH!

KLOK

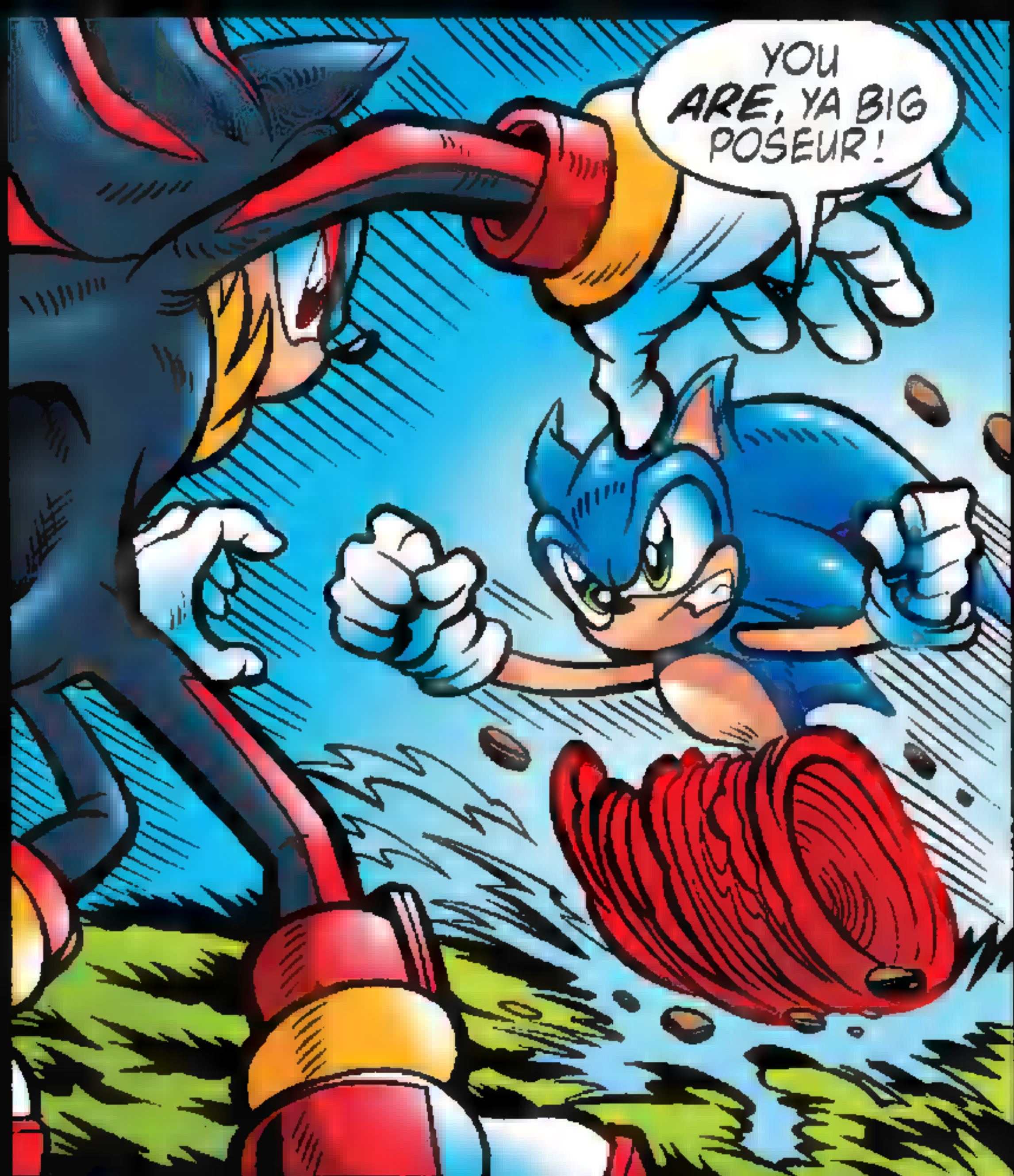


HOLD IT,
RIGHT *THERE*,
BUSTER--WE
DON'T WANT ANY
TROUBLE!

WHO
I--I--



I'M SORRY.
I THOUGHT I WAS
STILL UNDER
ATTACK.



YOU
ARE, YA BIG
POSEUR!



NO.
NO, HE'S
NOT.

WHAT?!



WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR
THIS, *NICOLE'S* EMERGENCY
BEACON IS FLASHING.

Thank you,
Princess. I'm
picking up
an urgent
SIGNAL. Its
source -
Castle Acorn.



YOU HEARD
HER, *FREEDOM*
FIGHTERS--
WE'RE NEEDED
THERE AT
ONCE.

SONIC, YOU CAN
RESOLVE(AS IN QUIETLY
DISCUSS) YOUR *MIS-*
UNDERSTANDING WITH
SHADOW LATER.

SOON...

IT DESCENDED FROM THE **HEAVENS** AND ATTACKED THE VERY **HEART** OF MY EMPIRE!

SOME KIND OF FLYING **VESSEL**. ITS TECHNOLOGY ON PAR WITH MY **OWN**!

"SCORES OF **SHADOW-BOTS** WERE INSTANTLY **ANNIHILATED**."

"POOR **SNIVELY** IS MISSING."

"**MEGAOPOLIS** LIES IN RUINS."

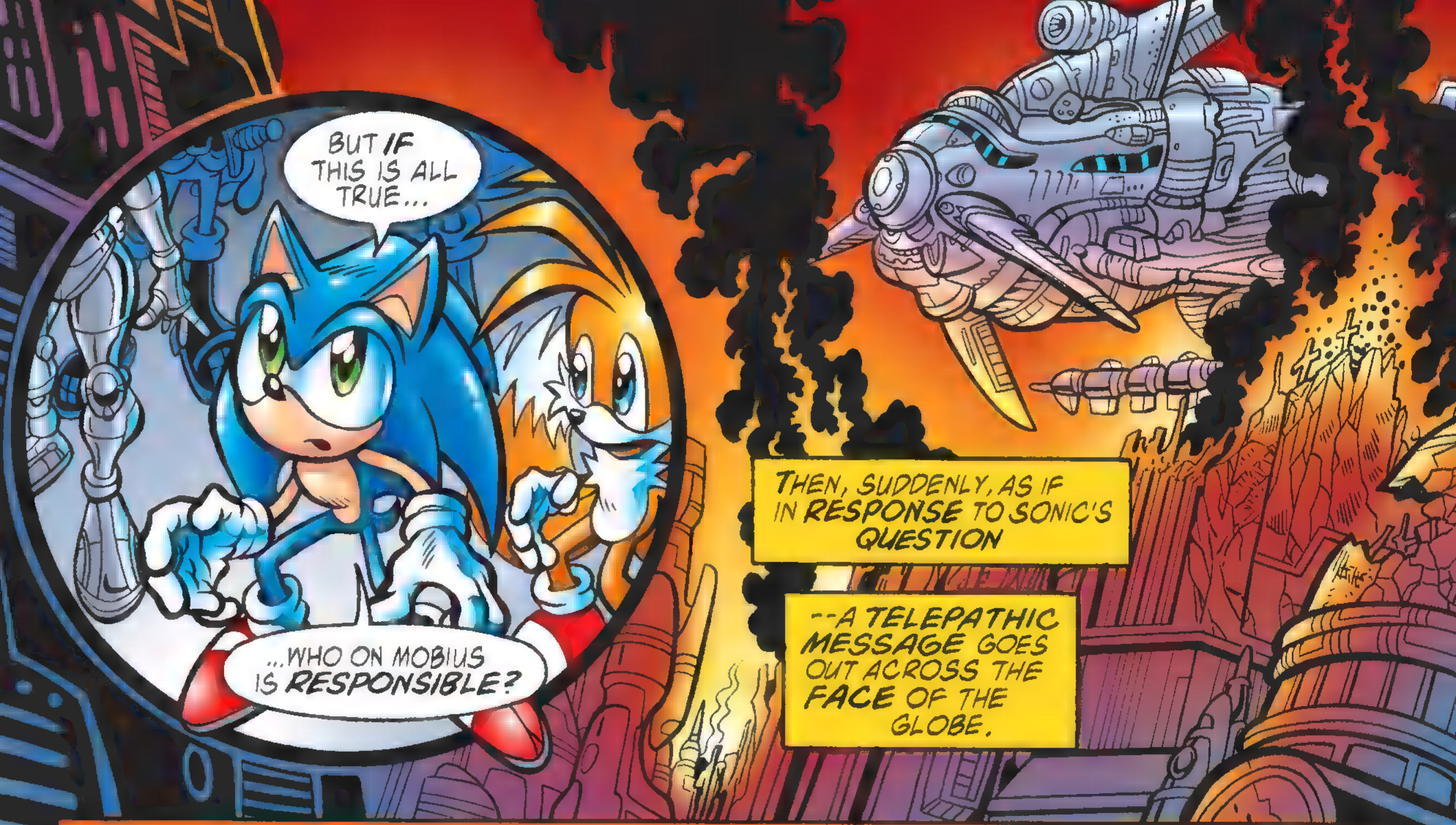
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE **ANY-THING** YOU SAY? ALL YOU'VE EVER **DONE** IS TRY TO HURT ME **AND** MY KINGDOM.

DESPITE HIS PAST **TREACHERY**, I THINK THE **EGGMAN** SPEAKS THE **TRUTH** NOW.

I **ENCOUNTERED** THE **VESSEL** EARLIER.

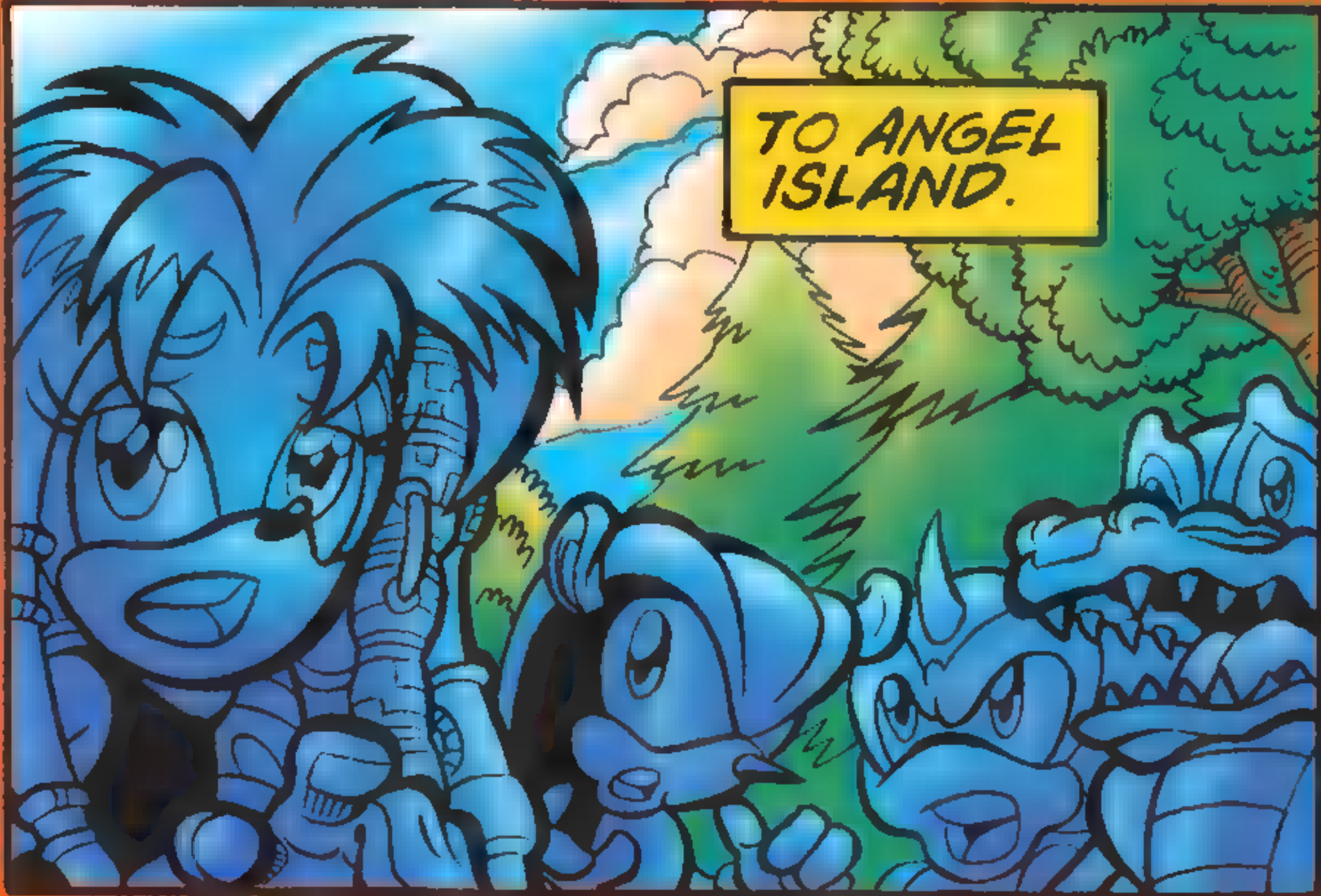
Incoming
HOLO-TRANSMIT
from Station
Square.

KNOTHOLE
SQUARE :SQWWKKK: STATION
SQUARE :SQWWKKK:
ATTACKED :SQWWKKK:
PRESIDENT :SQWWKKK:
INTURED.

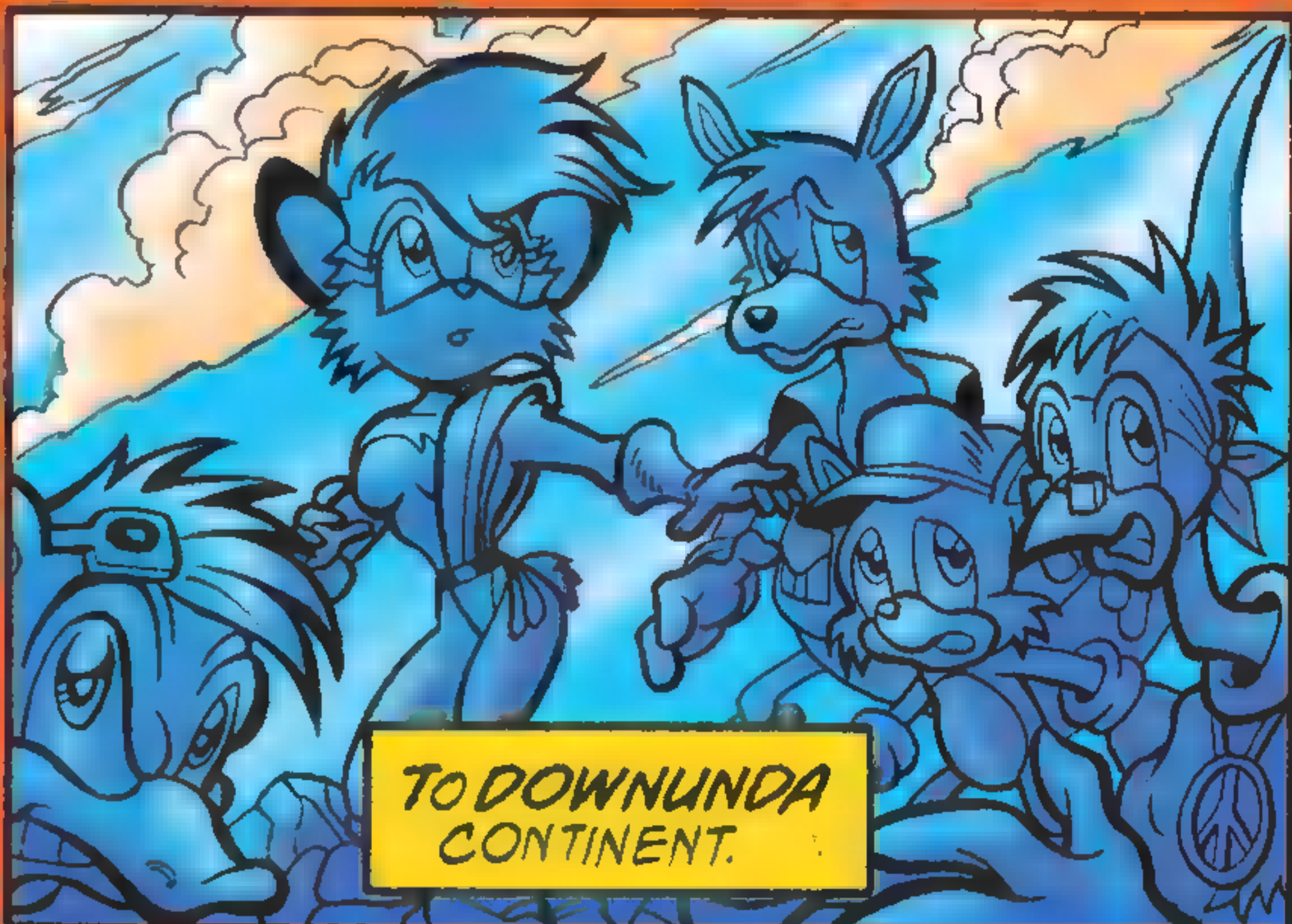


THEN, SUDDENLY, AS IF
IN RESPONSE TO SONIC'S
QUESTION

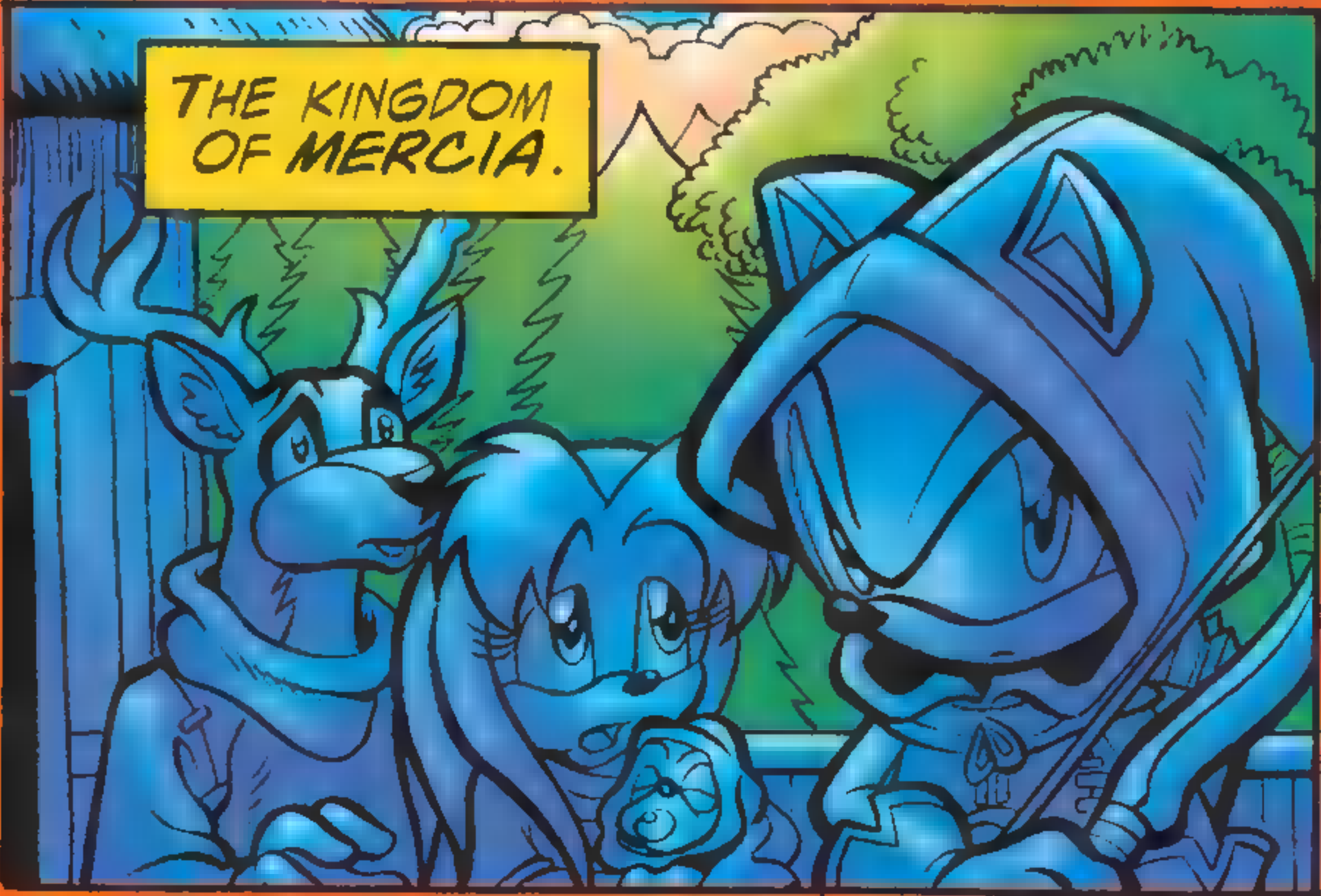
--A TELEPATHIC
MESSAGE GOES
OUT ACROSS THE
FACE OF THE
GLOBE.



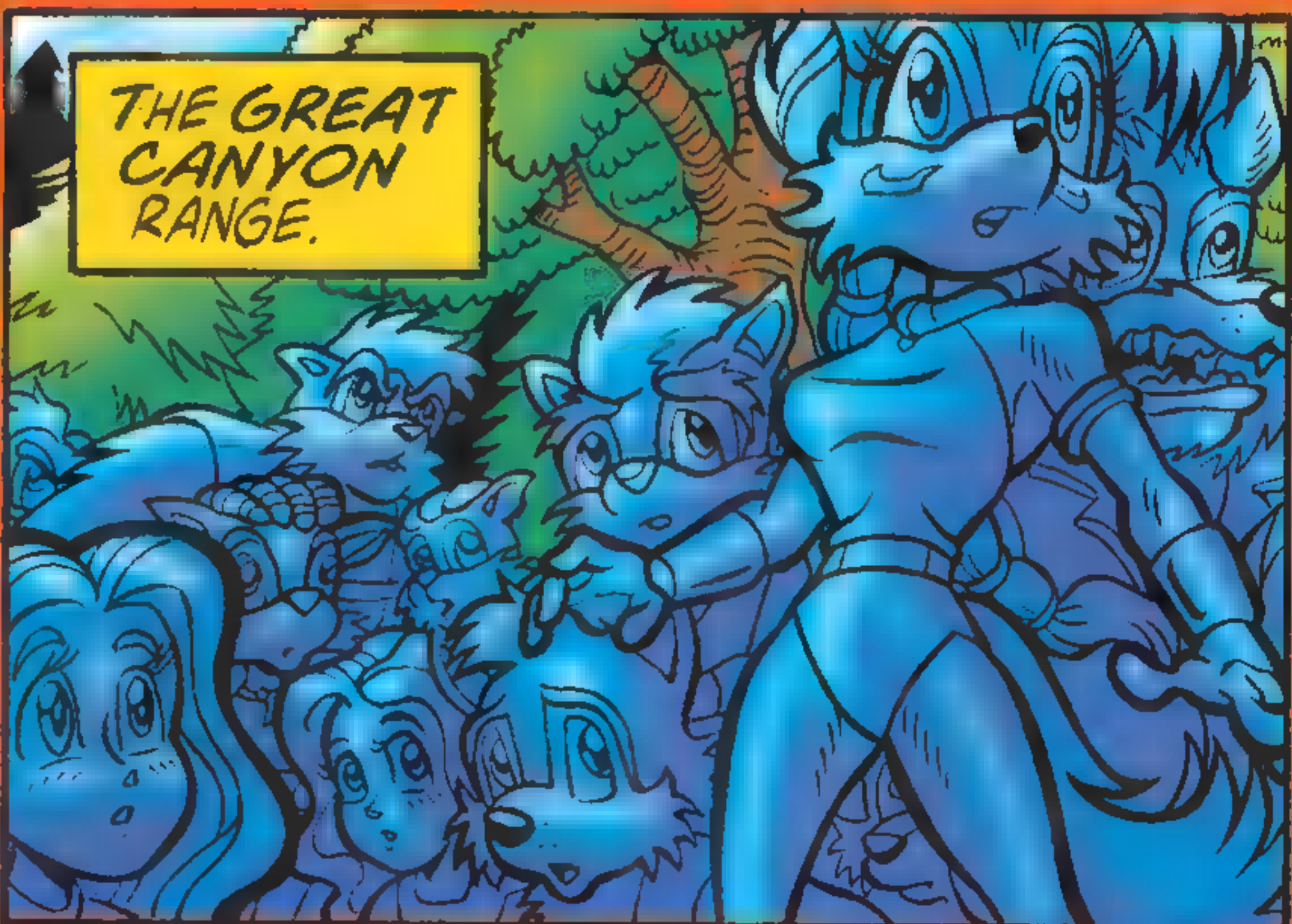
TO ANGEL
ISLAND.



TO DOWNUNDA
CONTINENT.



THE KINGDOM
OF MERCIA.



THE GREAT
CANYON
RANGE.



EVERYWHERE.
NO MIND IS LEFT
UNTOUCHED.

SENTIENT
INHABITANTS OF
PLANET
EARTH.

WE ARE THE
XORDA.

OBSERVE.
THRICE MILLENIA
PAST.

"THE XORDA CAME
TO THIS MUD-
SPHERE TO OFFER
AN ALLIANCE
TO ITS HUMAN
POPULACE.

"PEACE.

"AN EMISSARY
WAS DISPATCHED
TO THE SURFACE
OF YOUR EARTH.

"BUT WAS INSTEAD
CAPTURED.

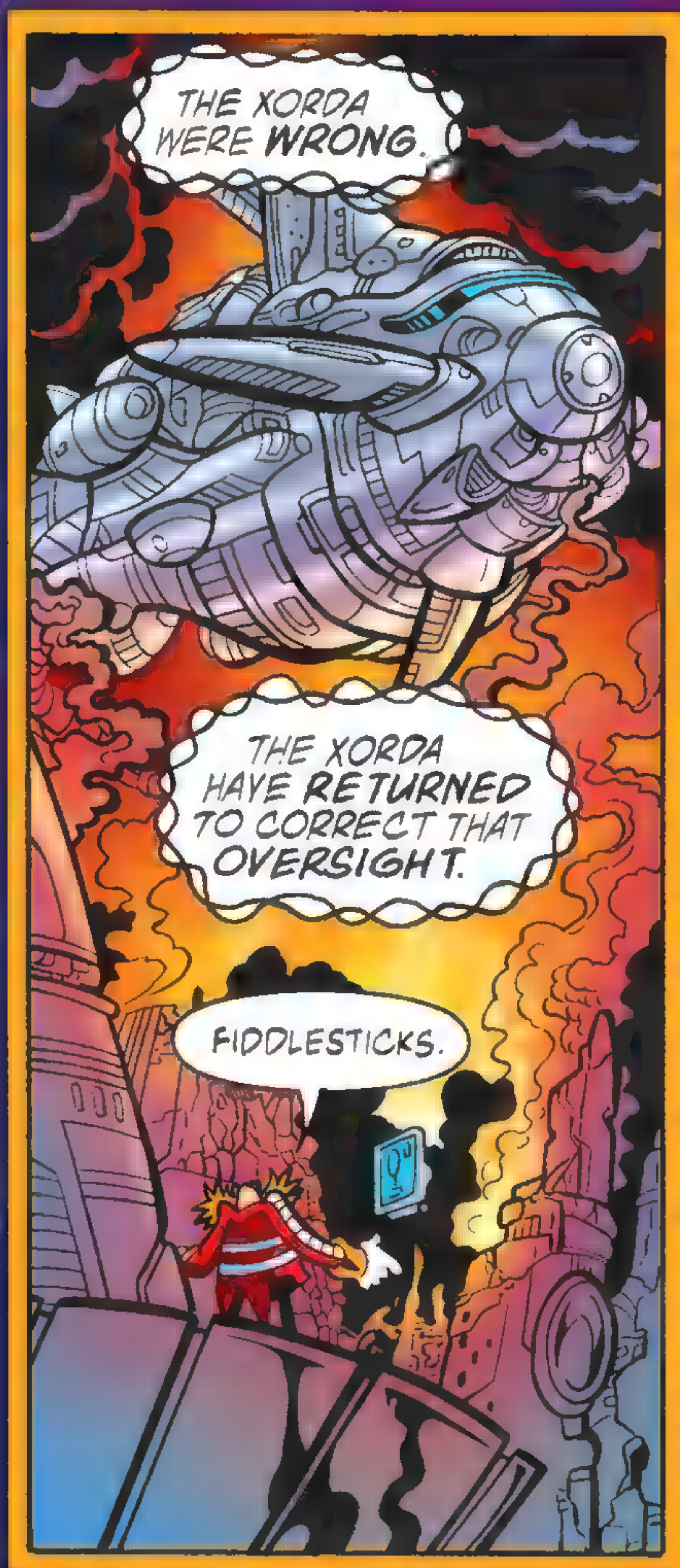
IMPRISONED.

DISSECTED.

"THE XORDA
REACTION--

"--WAS A
STRONG
ONE.

"THE XORDA
THOUGHT THEIR
GENE-BOMBS
HAD EXTINGUISHED
ALL LIFE HERE
THAT DAY."



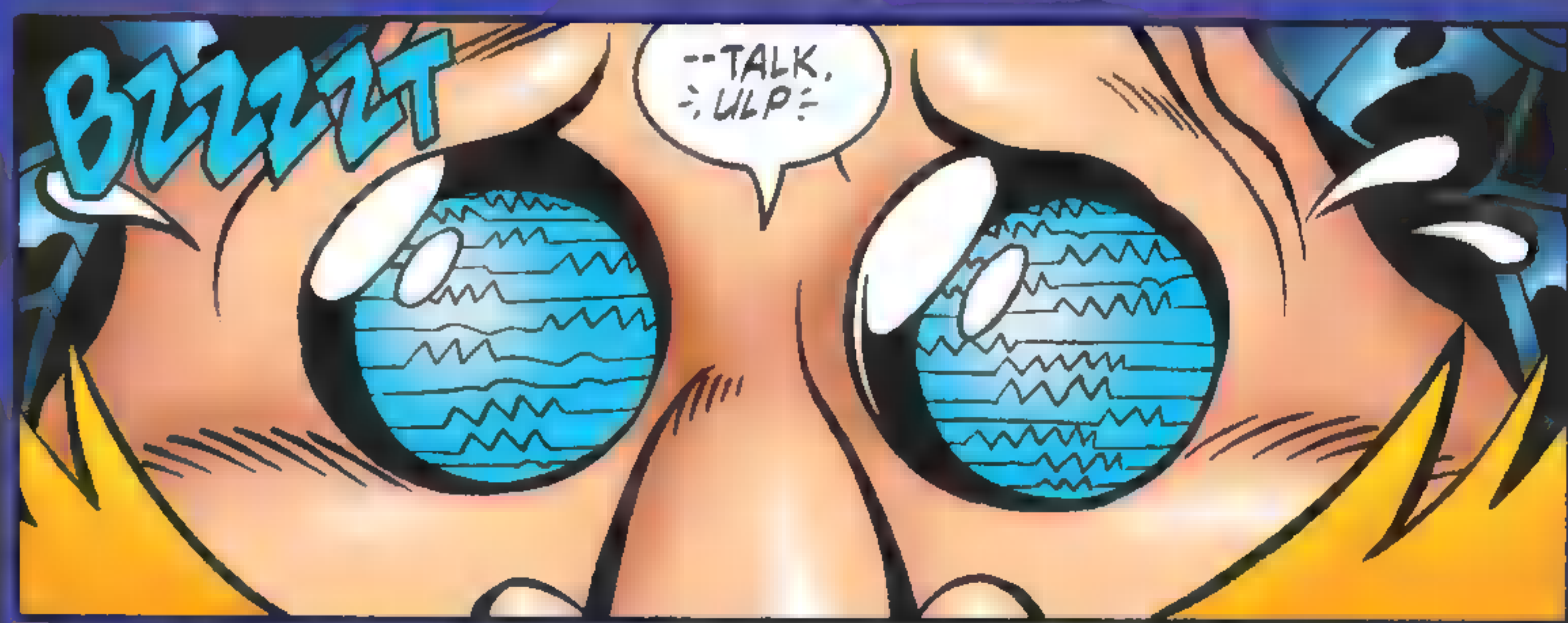
THE XORDA WERE WRONG.

THE XORDA HAVE RETURNED TO CORRECT THAT OVERSIGHT.

FIDDLESTICKS.



MAX, IT'S BECOMING APPARENT THAT WE SERIOUSLY NEED TO--



BZZZZT

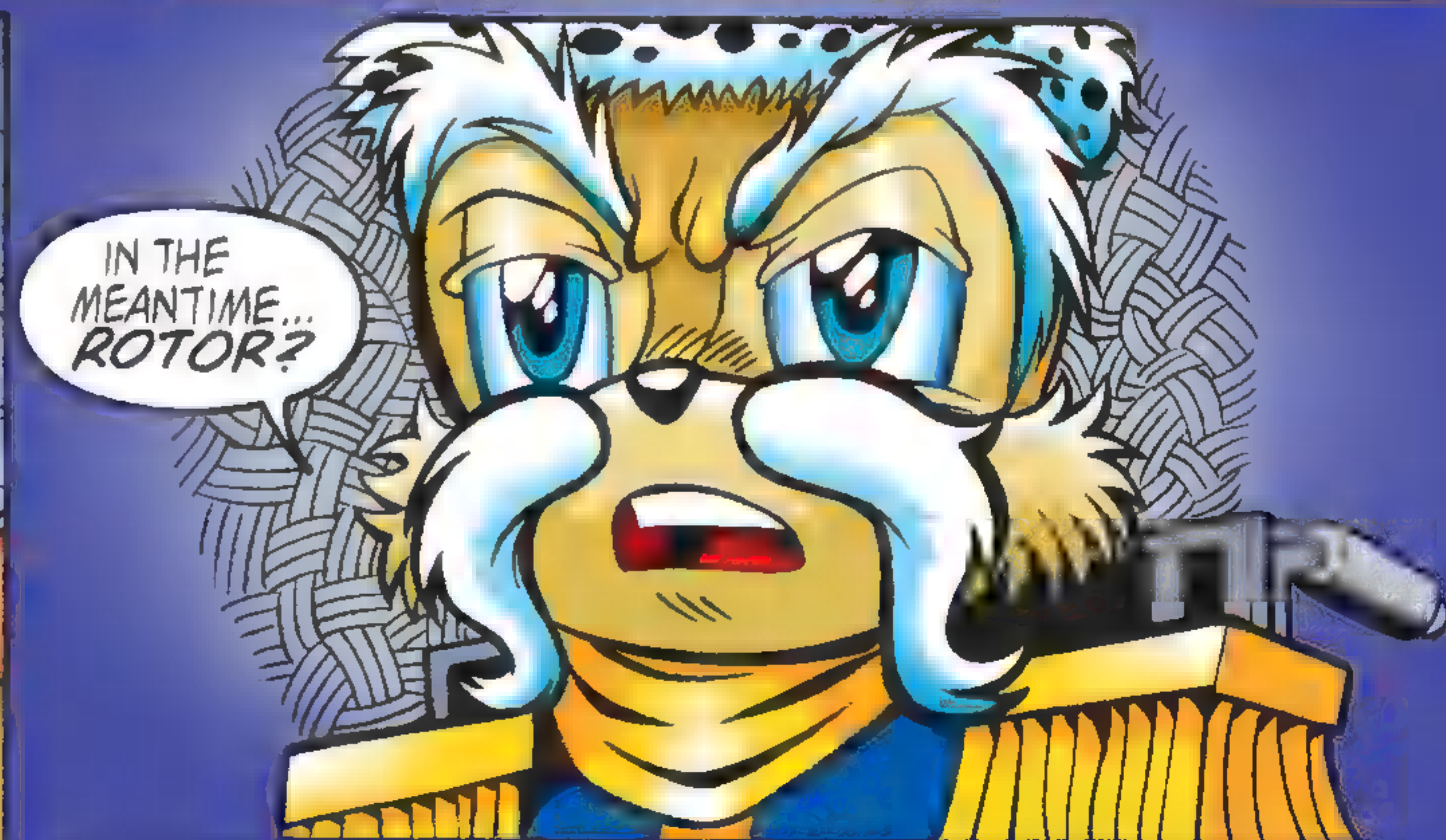
--TALK.
--ULP--



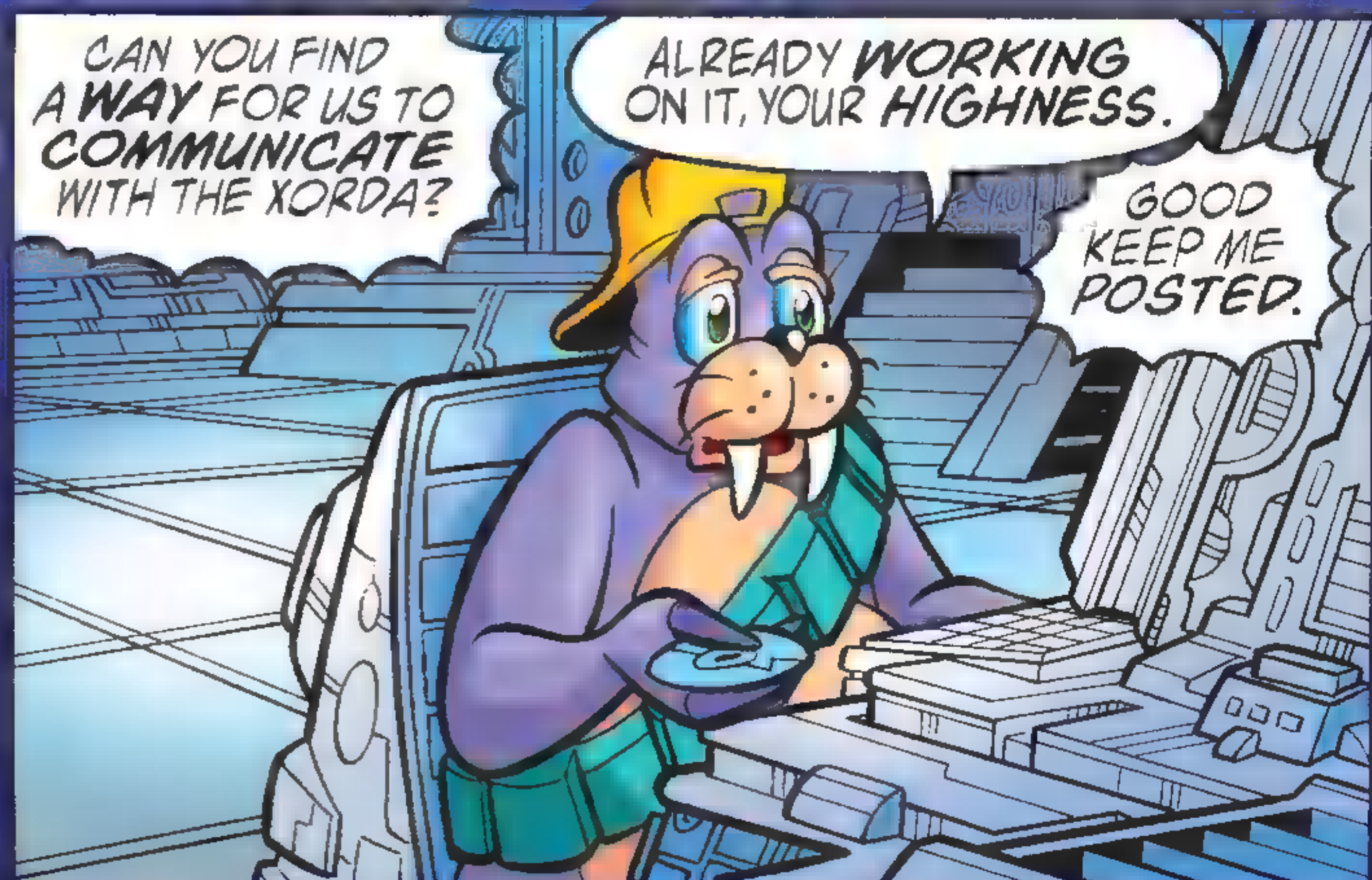
DAD, YOU ENDED ROBOTNIK'S TRANSMISSION IN MID-SENTENCE. WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN WISER TO HEAR HIM OUT?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE SALLY. HE'S NO LONGER ROBOTIC. NO LONGER INVINCIBLE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME HE'S SCARED BETTER TO LET HIM SWEAT. WE CAN USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.



IN THE MEANTIME... ROTOR?



CAN YOU FIND A WAY FOR US TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE XORDA?

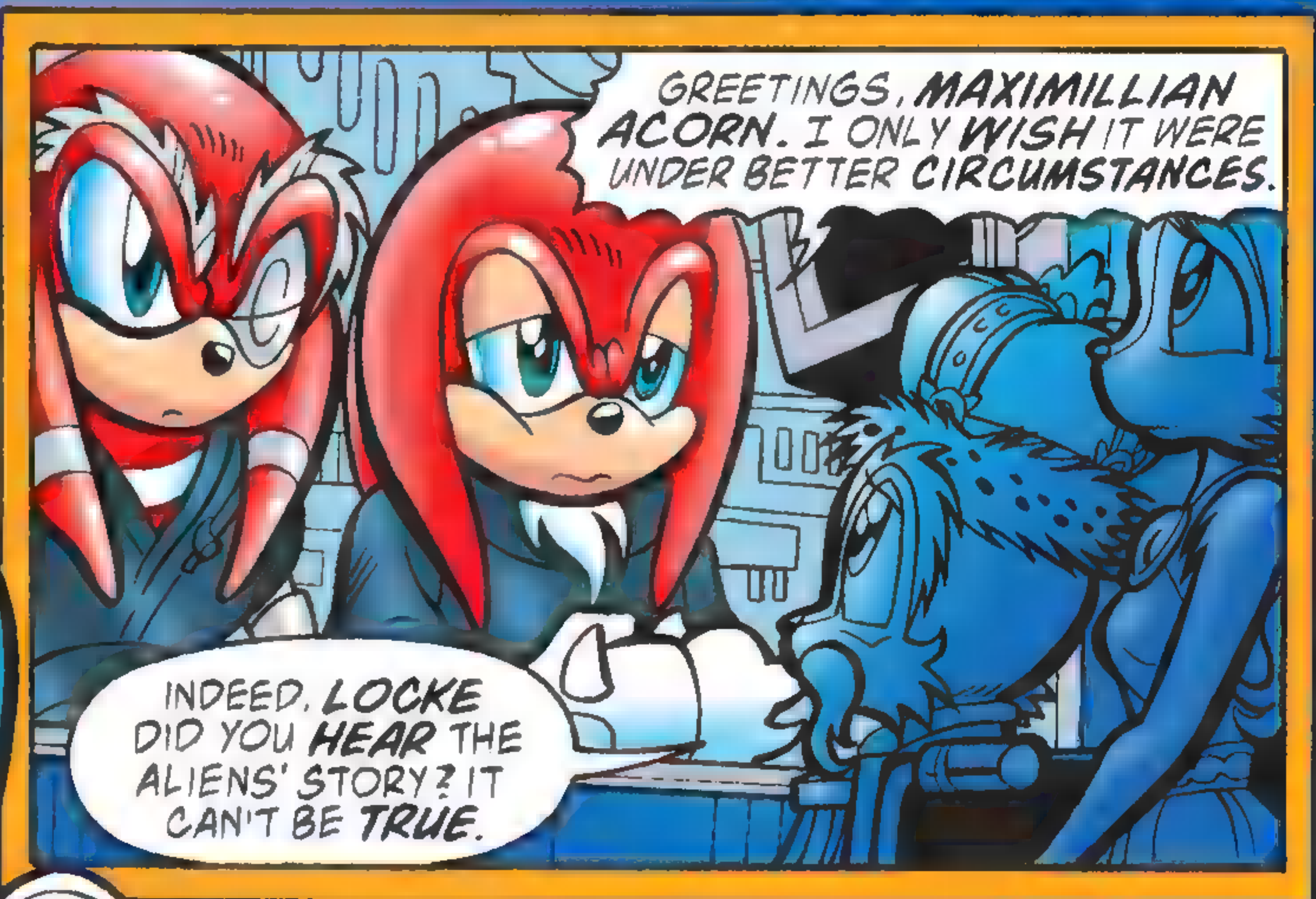
ALREADY WORKING ON IT, YOUR HIGHNESS.

GOOD KEEP ME POSTED.



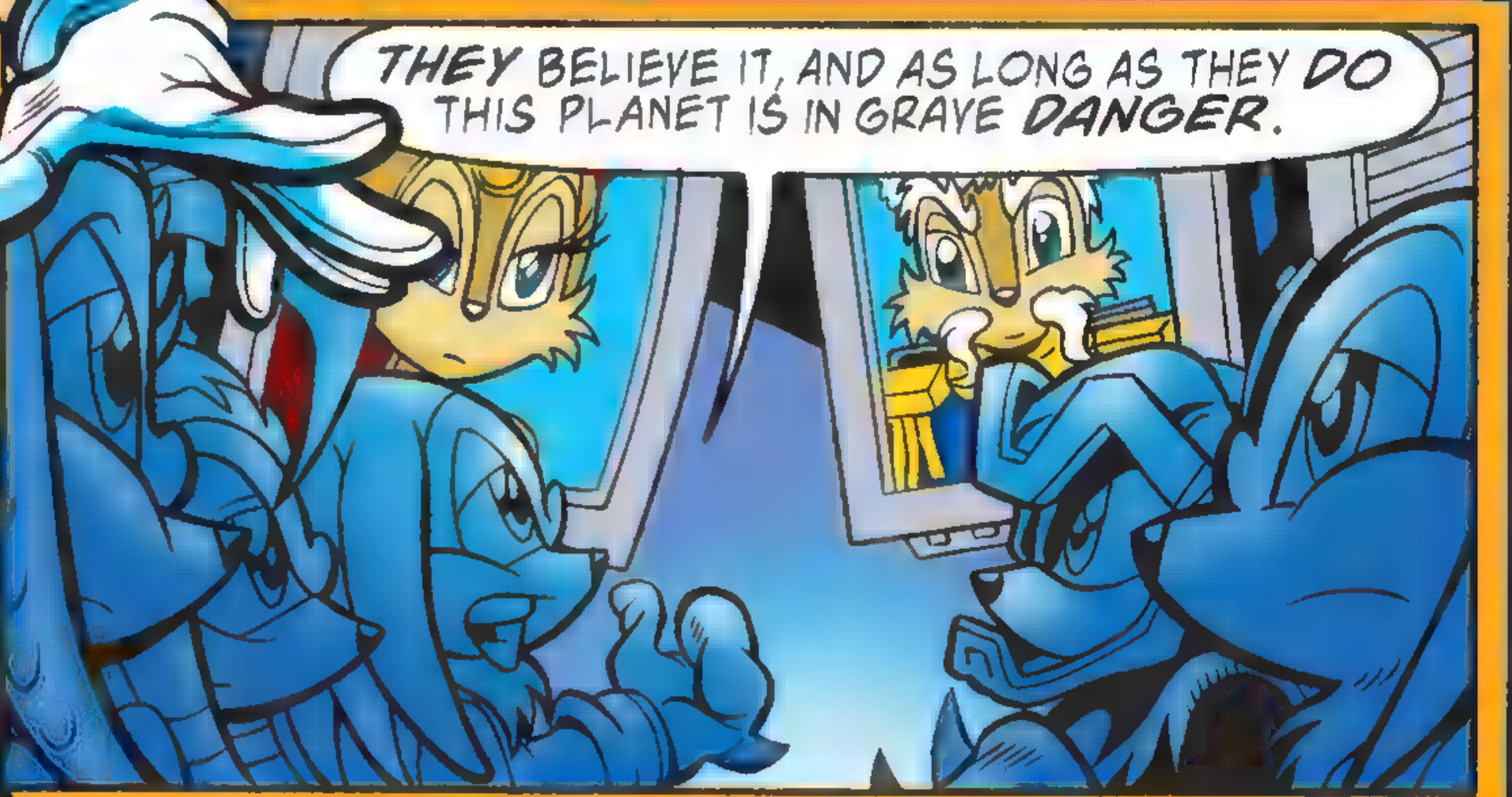
THOSE BOZO
ALIENS HAVE GOT
THE **WRONG**
PLANET.

THIS IS
MOBIUS, NOT
"URF"!



GREETINGS, MAXIMILLIAN
ACORN. I ONLY WISH IT WERE
UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.

INDEED, LOCKE
DID YOU **HEAR** THE
ALIENS' STORY? IT
CAN'T BE **TRUE**.



THEY BELIEVE IT, AND AS LONG AS THEY DO
THIS PLANET IS IN GRAVE **DANGER**.



WE'RE GOING TO
NEED ALL THE HELP
WE CAN GET.

WHERE'S
KNUX?

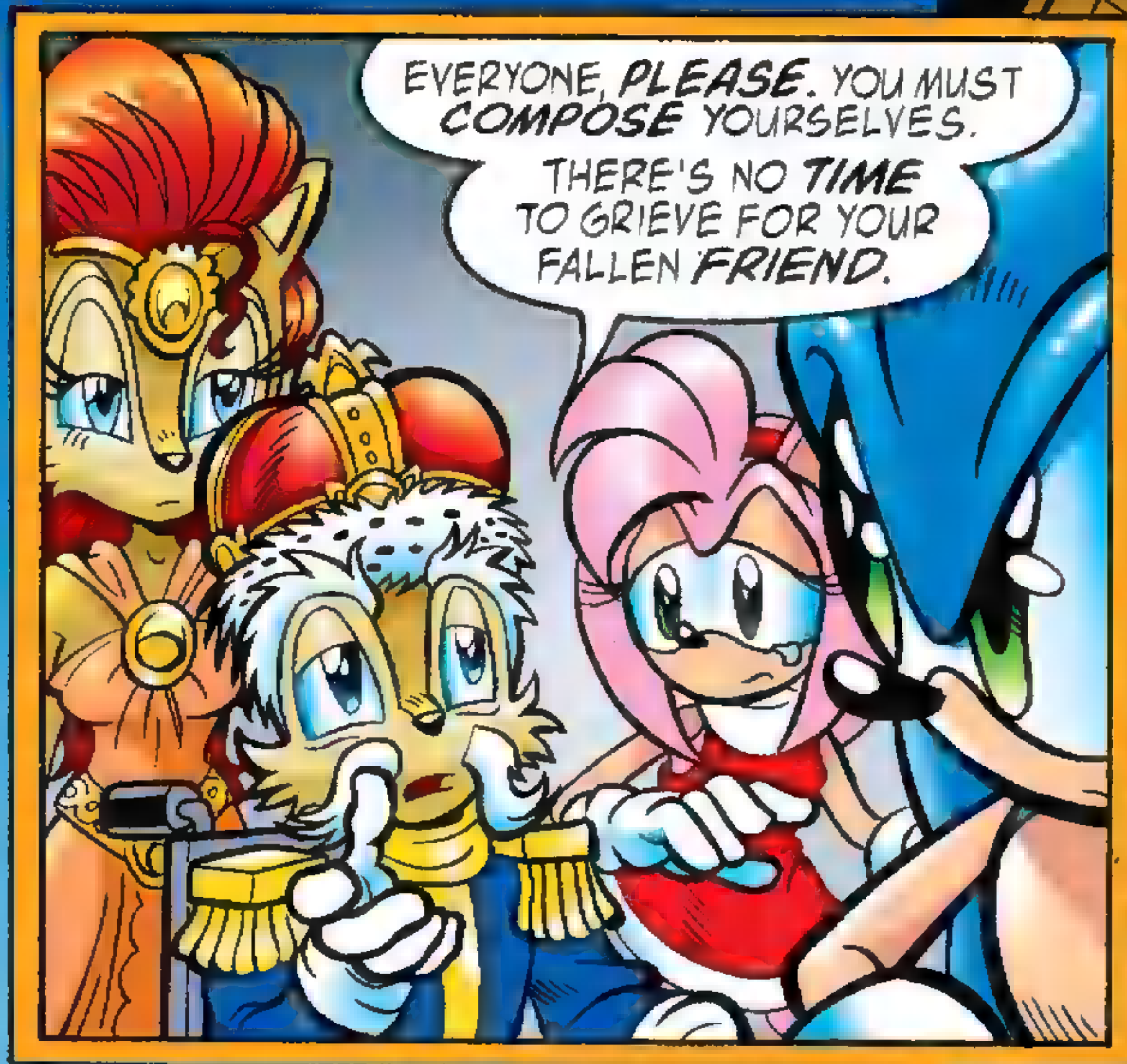


SONIC...
KNUCKLES IS
DEAD.

NO!!

HOW?!





EVERYONE, PLEASE. YOU MUST COMPOSE YOURSELVES. THERE'S NO TIME TO GRIEVE FOR YOUR FALLEN FRIEND.



HE-HE'S RIGHT. NICOLE AND I ARE GOING TO DO SOME HISTORICAL RESEARCH.



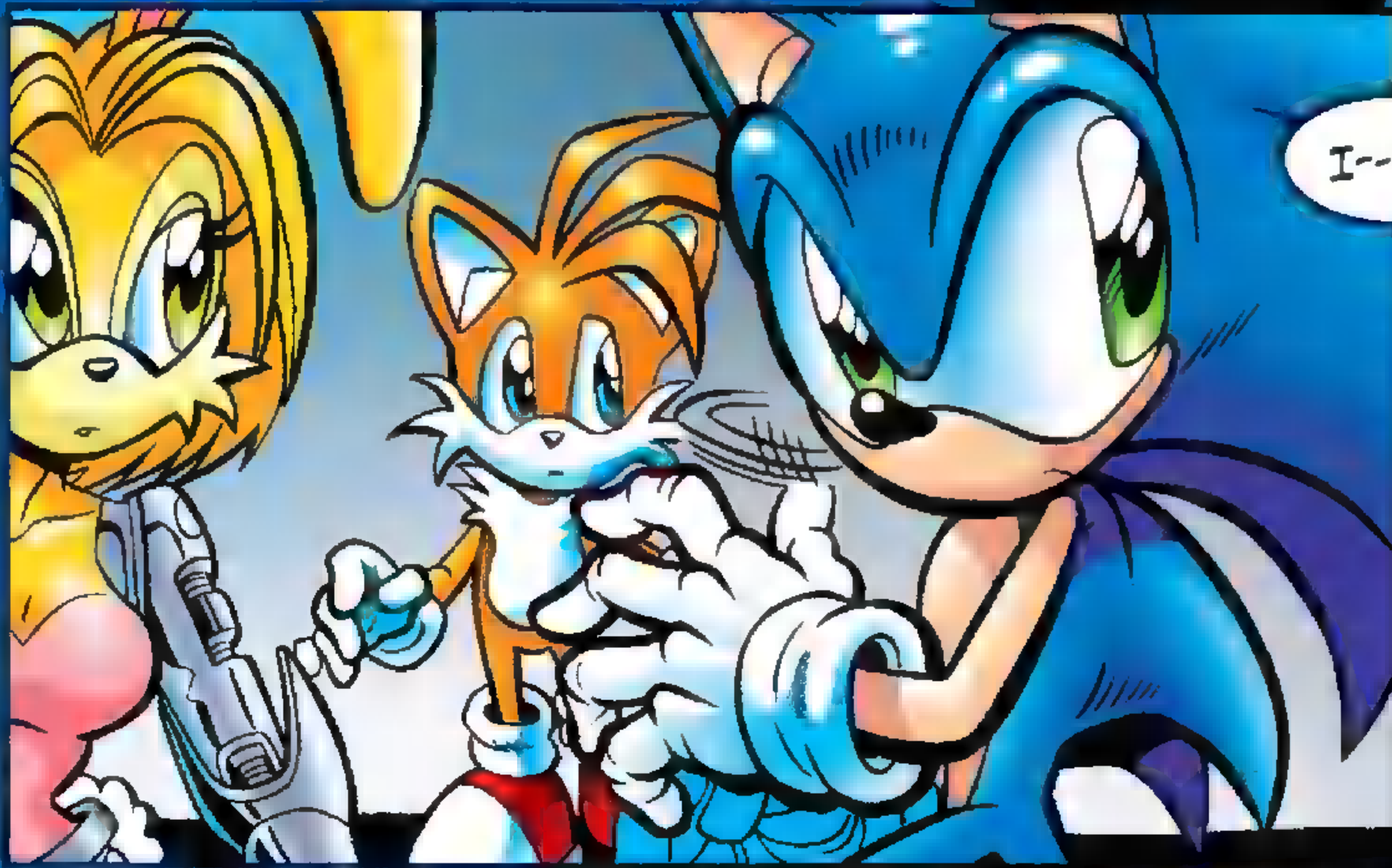
WE'LL DO THE SAME HERE ON ANGEL ISLAND.

ANGEL ISLAND?!

LONG STORY. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH. LOCKE OUT.



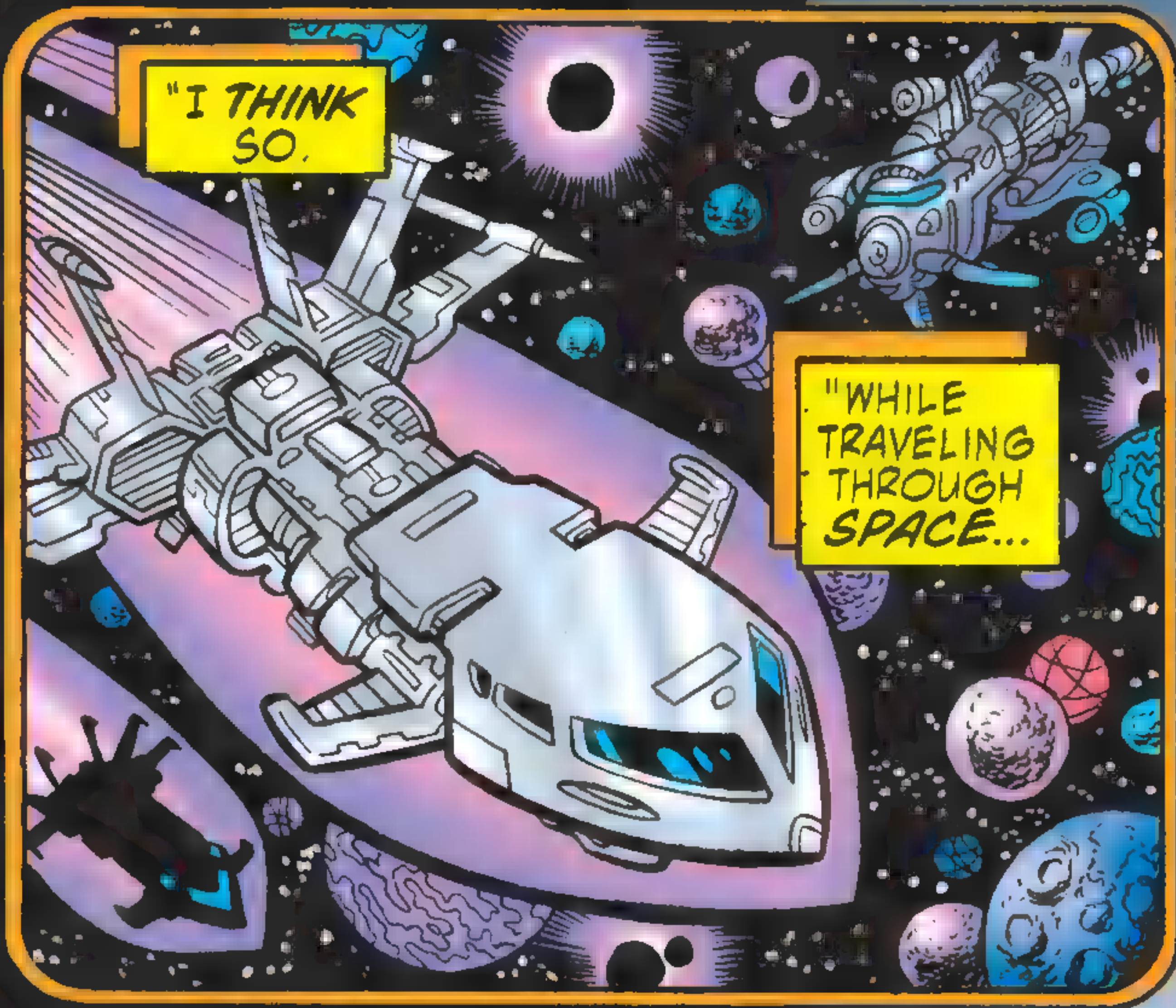
AND ANOTHER THING: WHY'D IT TAKE THESE LOSERS OVER THREE-THOUSAND YEARS TO FIGURE OUT THEY BOTCHED THE JOB?



I--I--



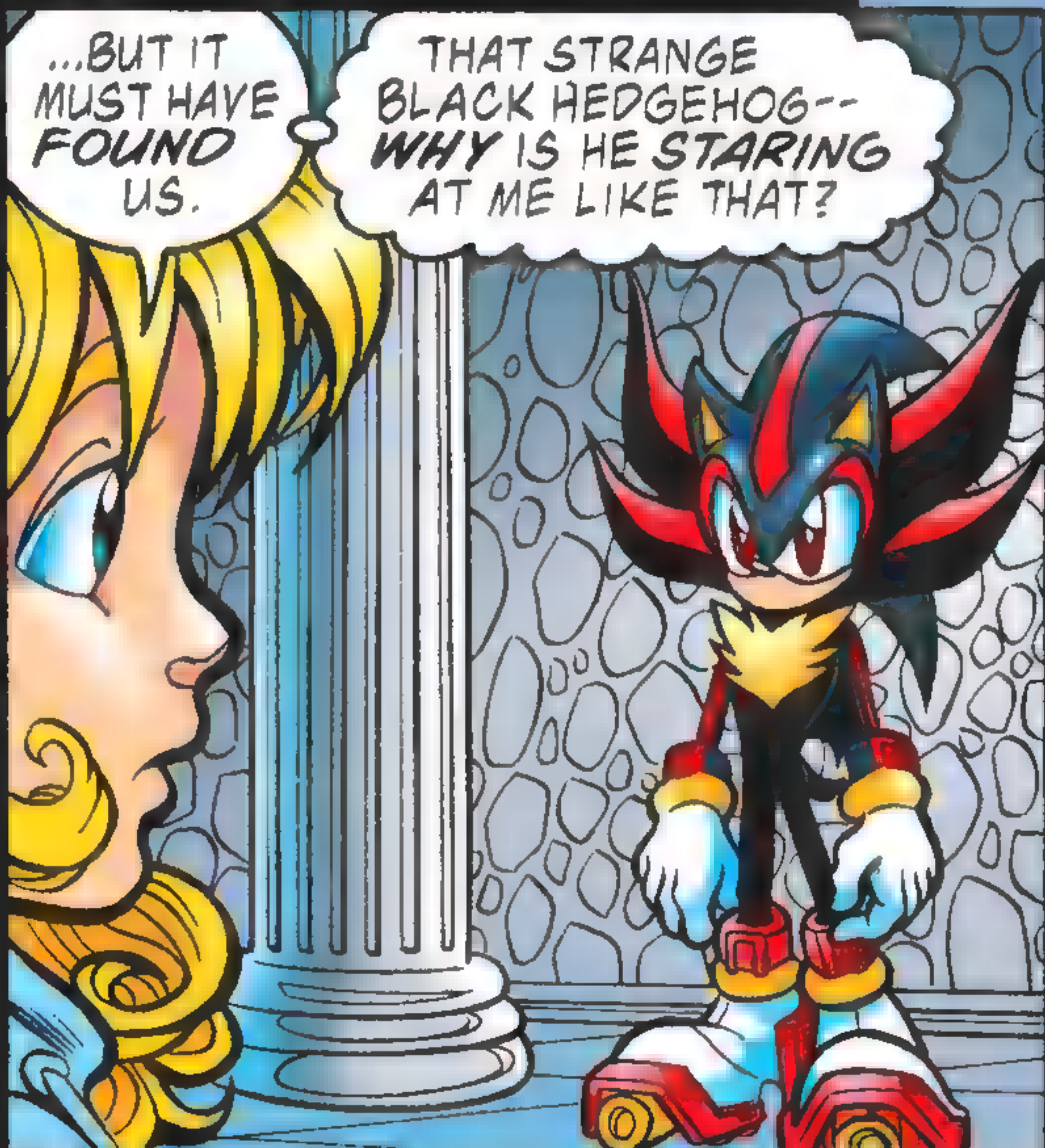
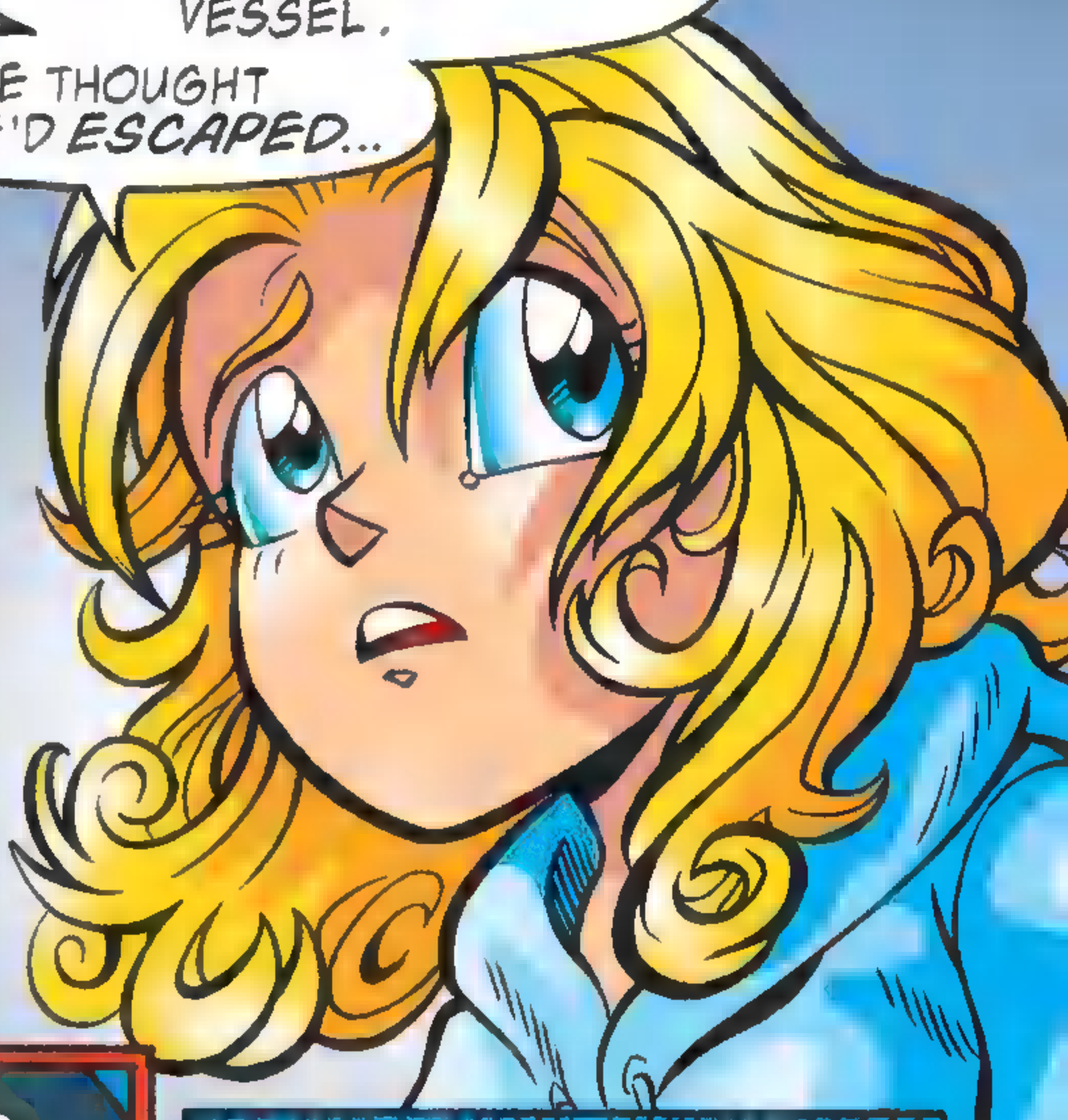
--THINK I KNOW.



"I THINK SO."

"WHILE TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE..."

...OUR OVERLANDER SHIPS WERE ATTACKED BY THAT SAME ALIEN VESSEL.
WE THOUGHT WE'D ESCAPED...

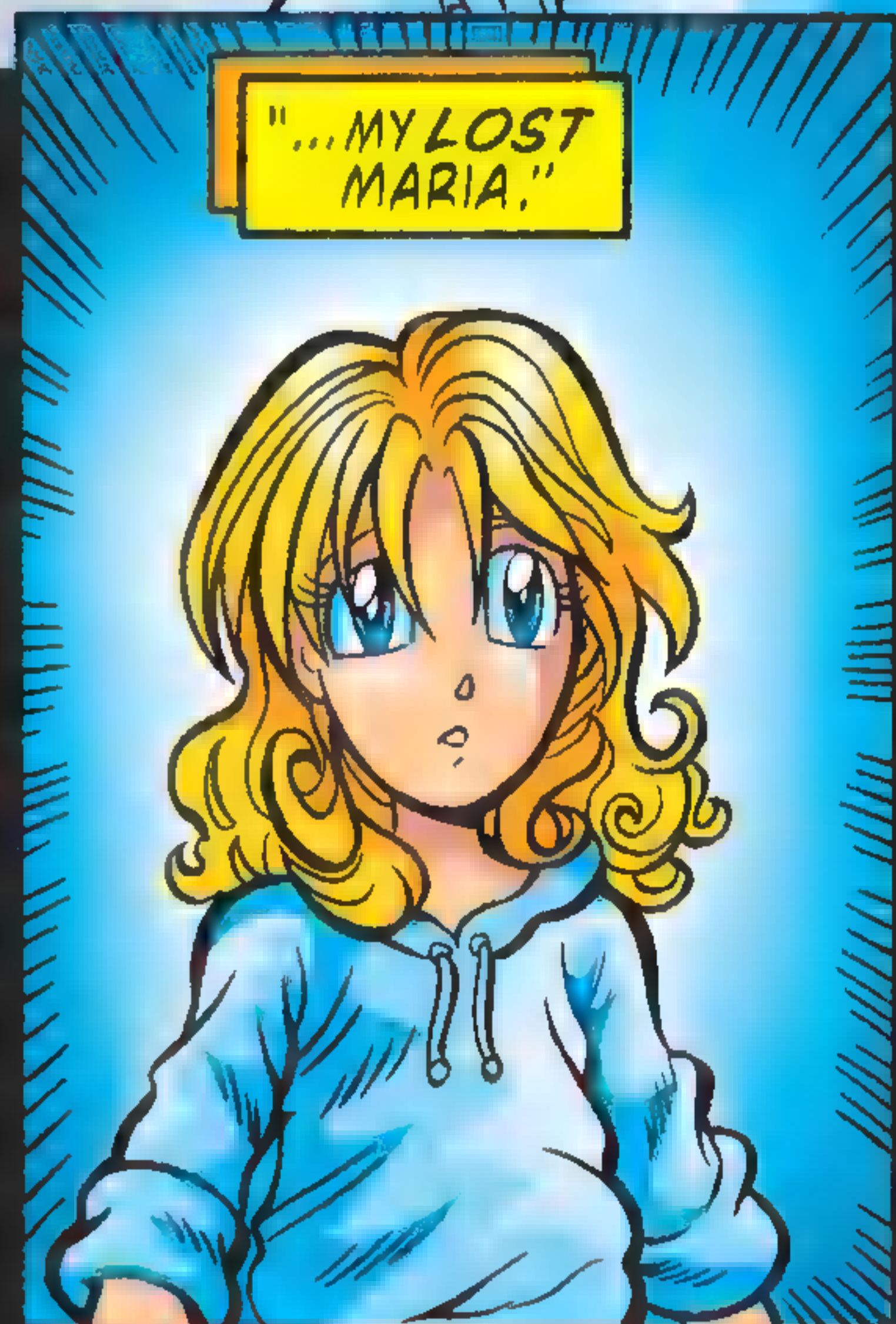


...BUT IT MUST HAVE FOUND US.

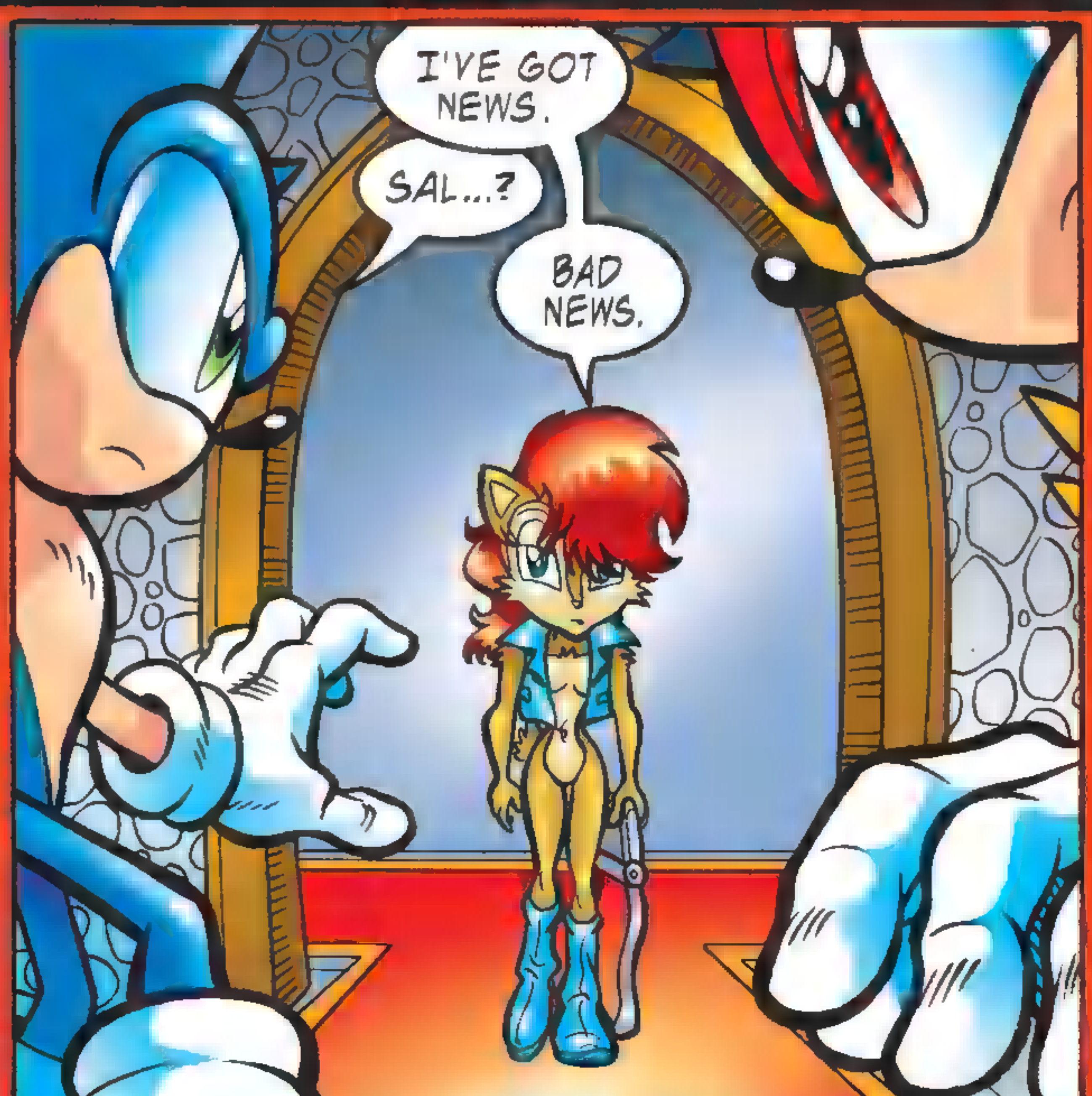
THAT STRANGE BLACK HEDGEHOG-- WHY IS HE STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?



THAT OVERLANDER GIRL-- SHE SOMEHOW REMINDS ME OF--



"...MY LOST MARIA."



I'VE GOT NEWS.

SAL...?

BAD NEWS.



THE XORDA ARE RIGHT. MOBIUS AND EARTH...

...ARE REALLY THE SAME PLANET!

NEXT:
SONIC 2.5: ΩMEGA!
ADVENTURE

HAS DIED AND NOW STANDS
BEFORE AURORA, AWAITING
HIS FINAL FATE...

I ALREADY
LIVED MY LIFE
ONCE, AURORA--

--SO WHAT'S
WITH THE
RERUN?

DOES IT END
DIFFERENTLY
THE SECOND TIME
AROUND?

AFTERLIFE

Part Four

ONLY YOU
CAN DETERMINE
THAT,
KNUCKLES!

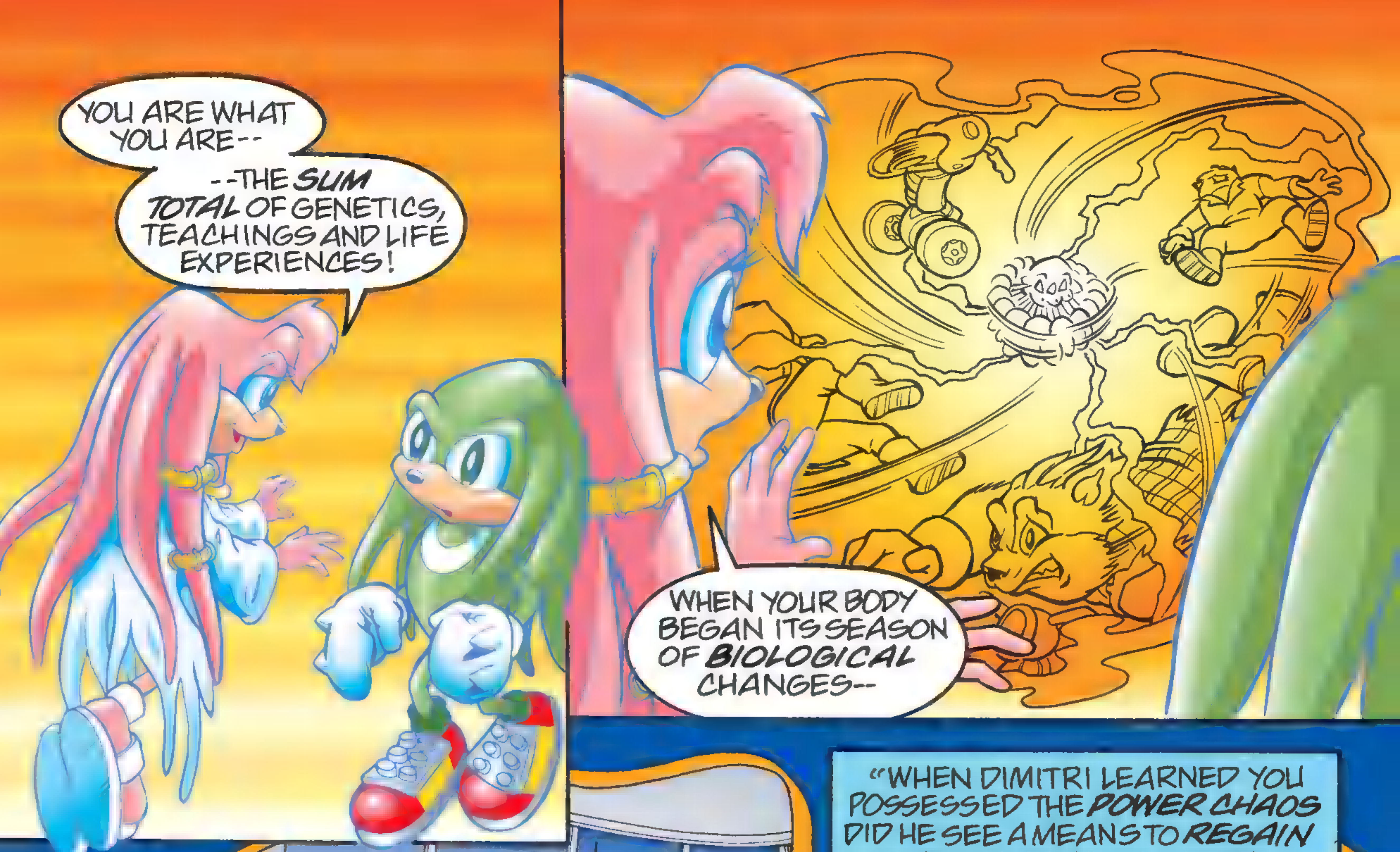
WHY DO
YOU THINK YOU'RE
HERE IN THE FIRST
PLACE?

I DID WHAT I
HAD TO!

I COULDN'T
LET DIMITRI
DIE!

COULD
I?

IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS
COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT&INKS
ART MAWHINNEY-PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER
J. JENSEN-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF
SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!



YOU ARE WHAT
YOU ARE--

--THE **SUM**
TOTAL OF GENETICS,
TEACHINGS AND LIFE
EXPERIENCES!

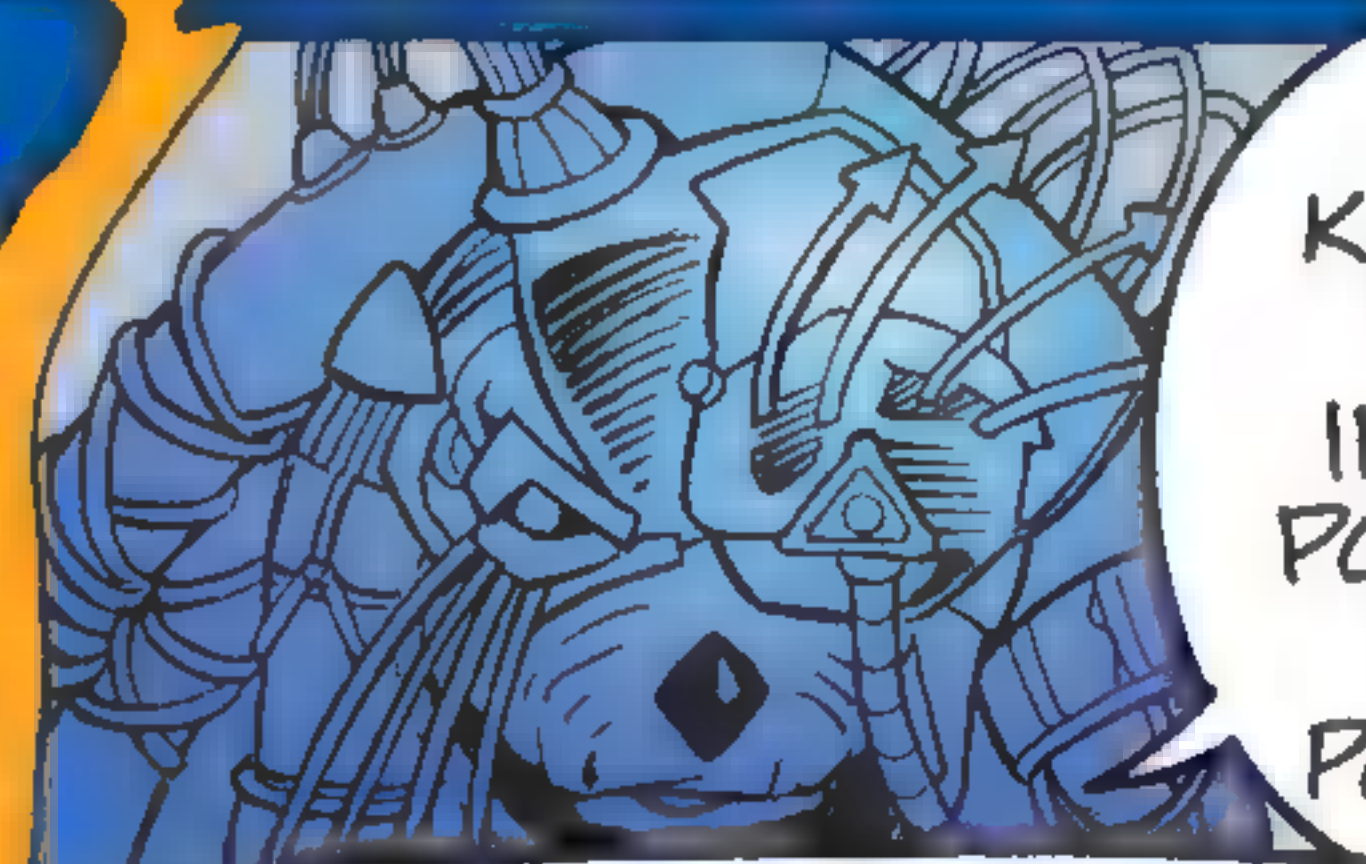
WHEN YOUR BODY
BEGAN ITS SEASON
OF **BIOLOGICAL**
CHANGES--

"--ONLY THEN DID YOU BECOME
AWARE OF HOW **SPECIAL**
YOU TRULY ARE!



WHOA!

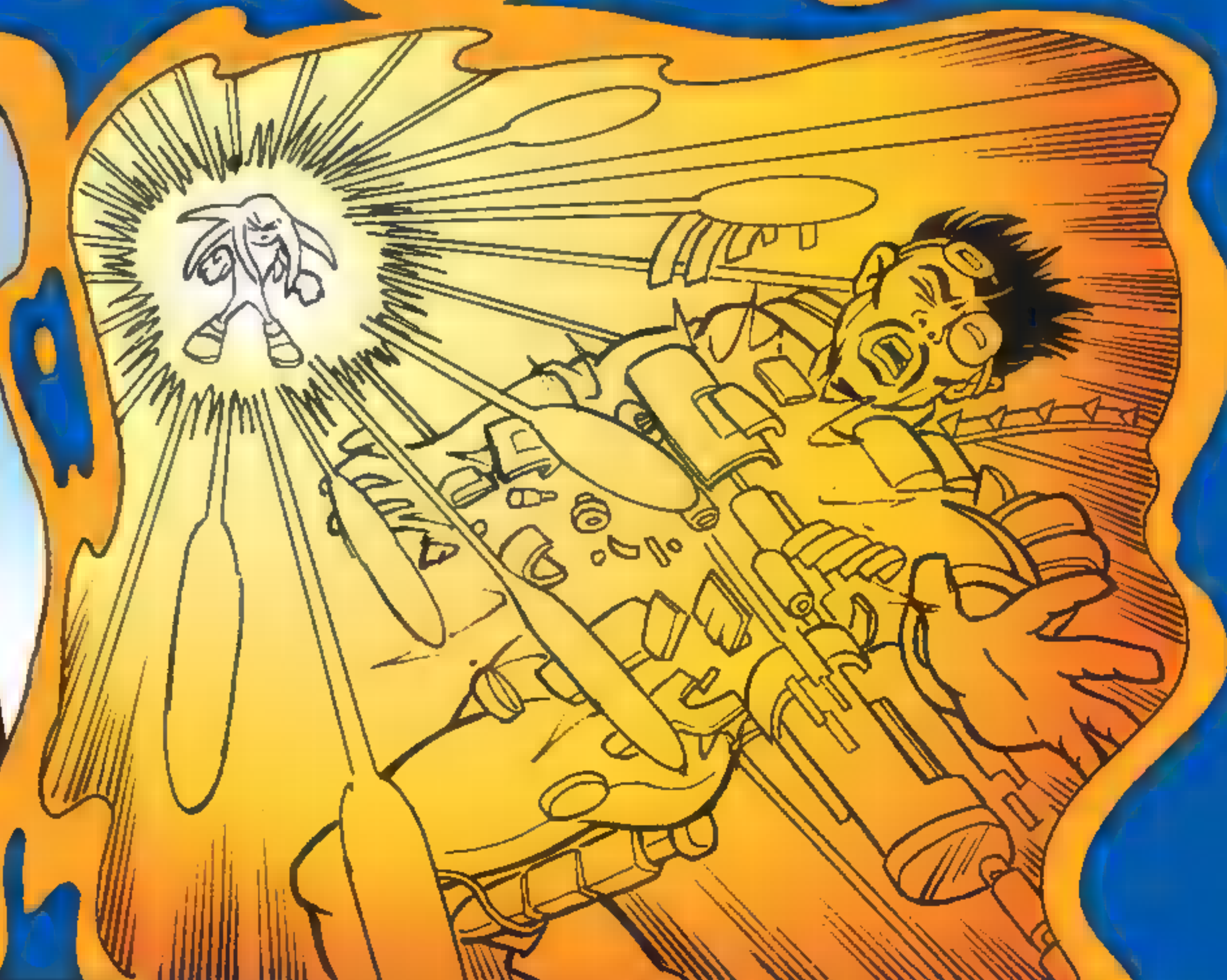
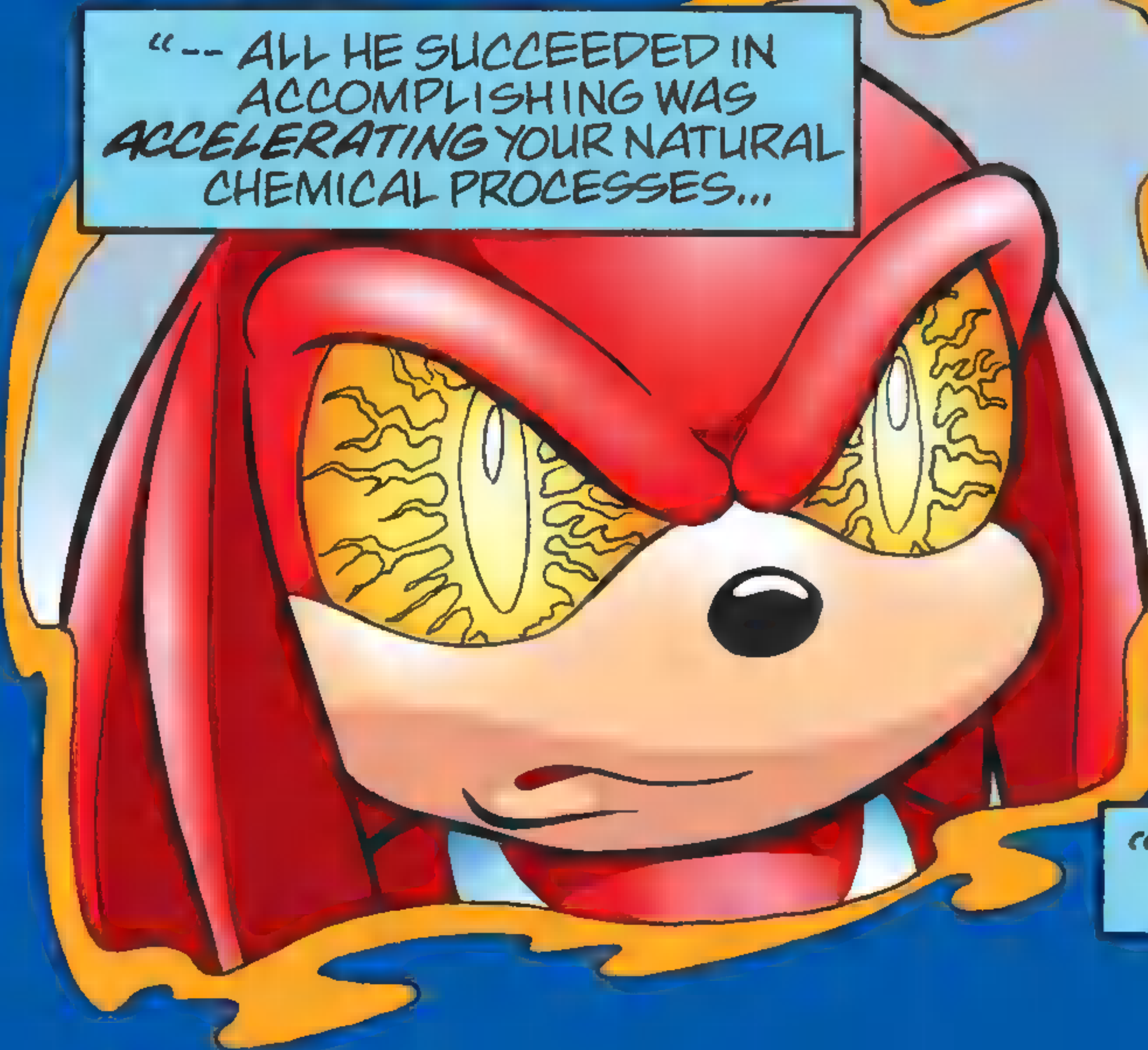
"WHEN DIMITRI LEARNED YOU
POSSESSED THE **POWER CHAOS**
DID HE SEE A MEANS TO **REGAIN**
THAT WHICH HE HAD **LOST**--



IF
KNUCKLES
DOES
INDEED
POSSESS
THE
POWER--

--I COULD BE **RESTORED**
TO MY FORMER SELF!

"-- ALL HE SUCCEEDED IN
ACCOMPLISHING WAS
ACCELERATING YOUR NATURAL
CHEMICAL PROCESSES...



"EACH TIME **DANGER** THREATENED, YOUR
INSTINCTS REACTED ACCORDINGLY..."

"UNTIL FINALLY, YOU WERE PUSHED FAR ENOUGH TO REACH **CRITICAL MASS**, COMPLETING THE PROCESS."

FEELS WEIRD--
--LIKE I'M BURNING UP!

SO WHAT WENT WRONG?

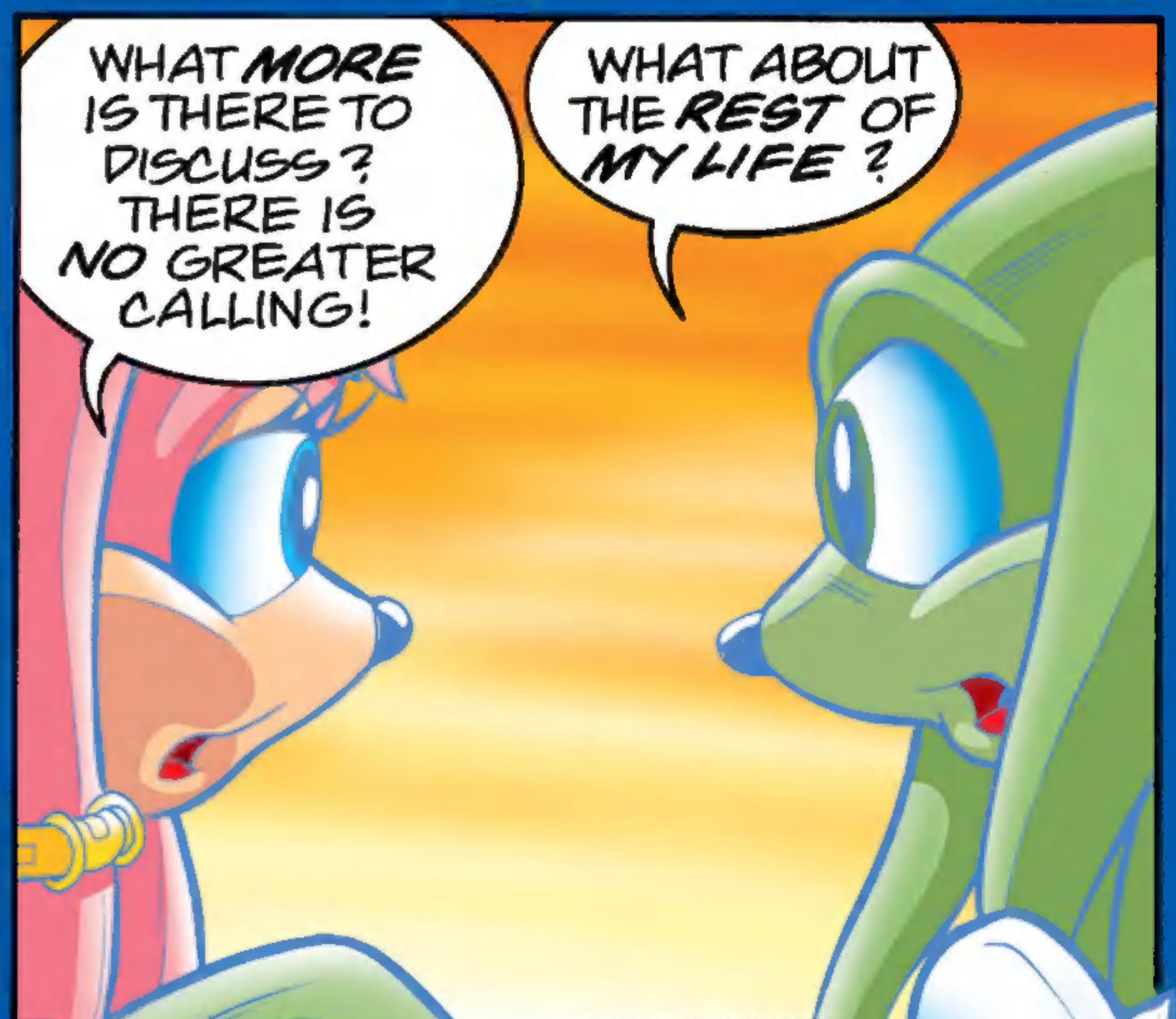
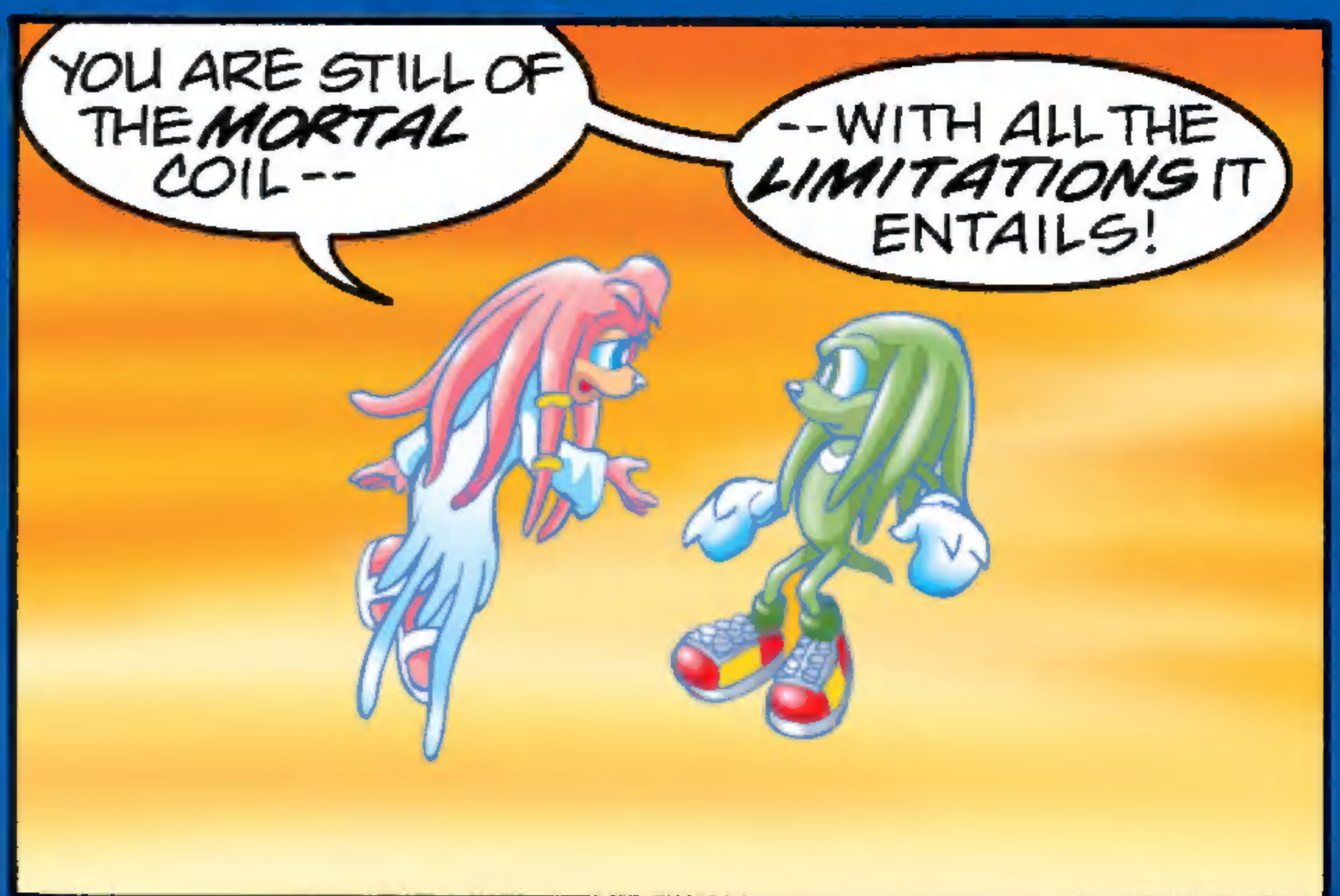
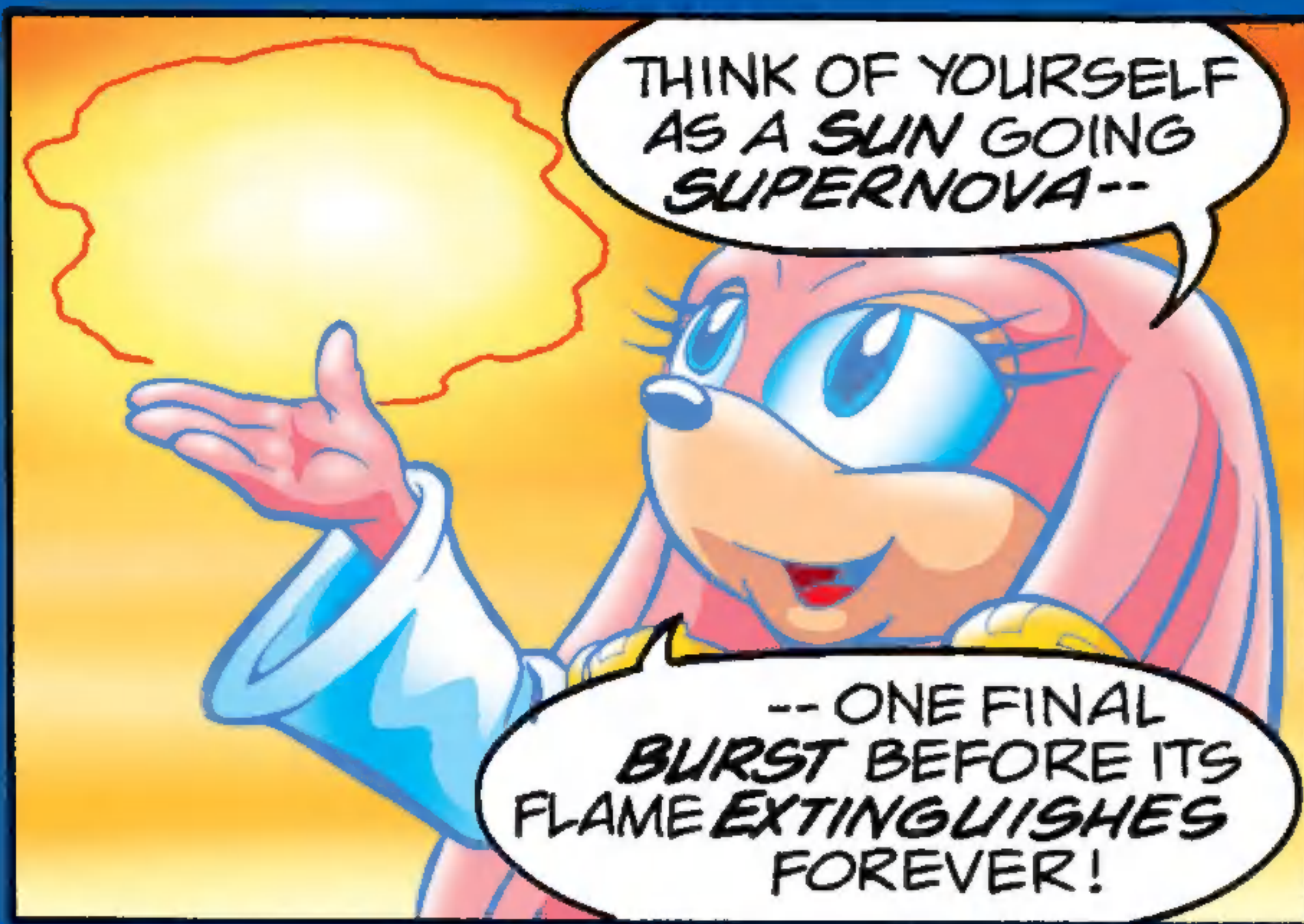
JUST AS ECHIDNAOPOLIS WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY--

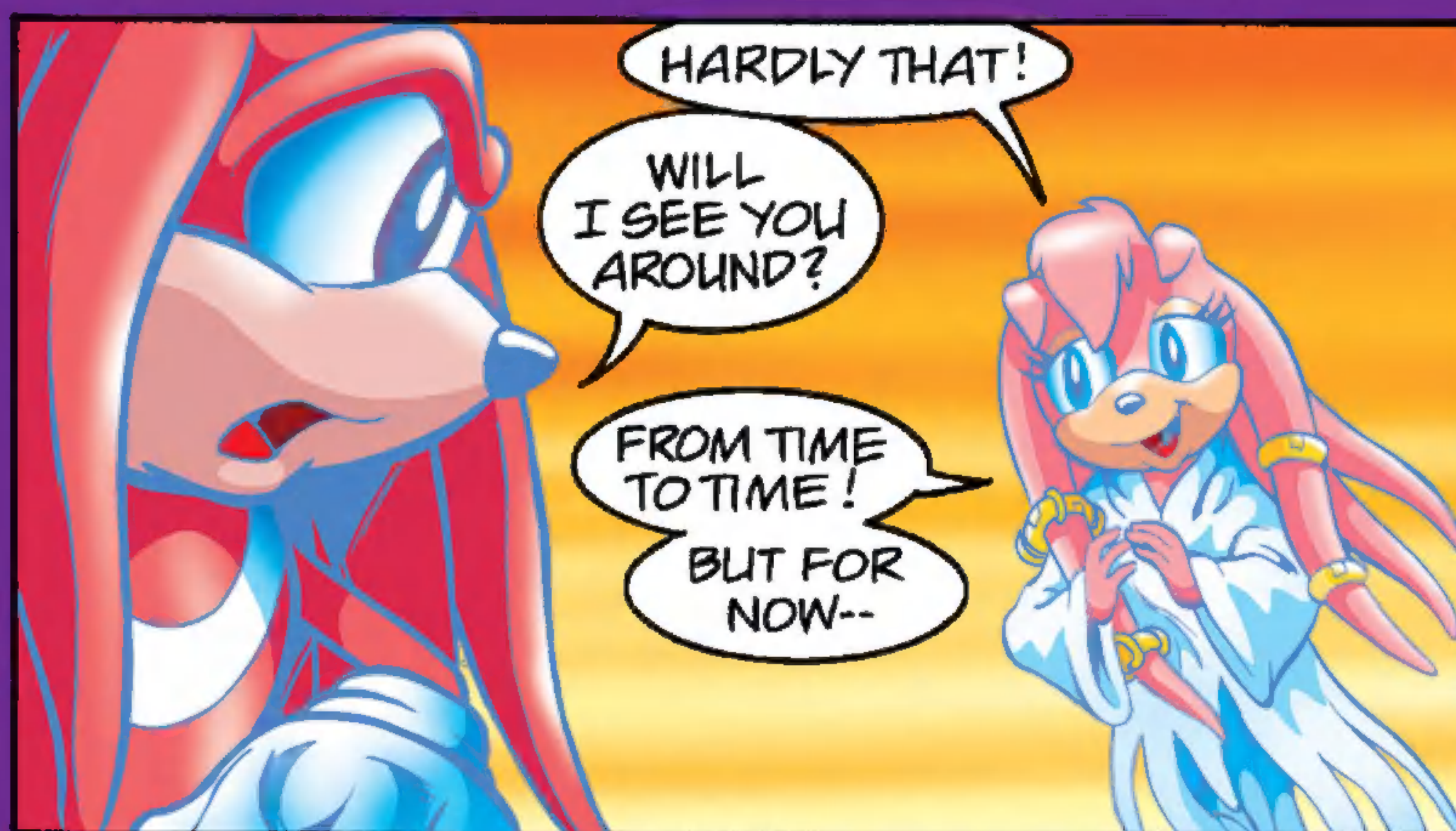
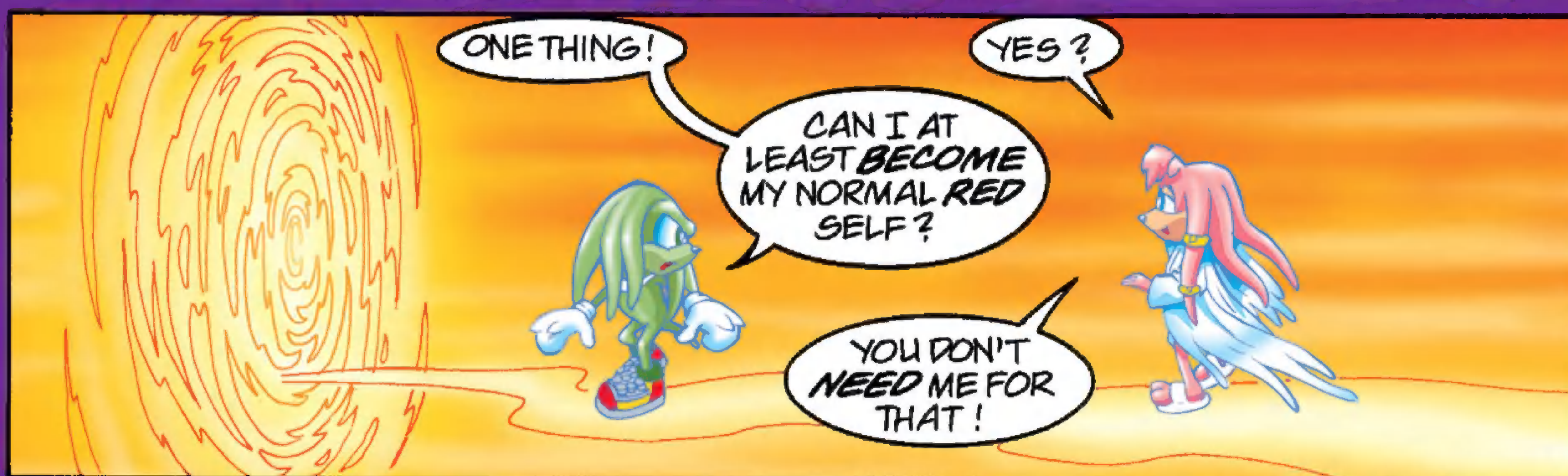
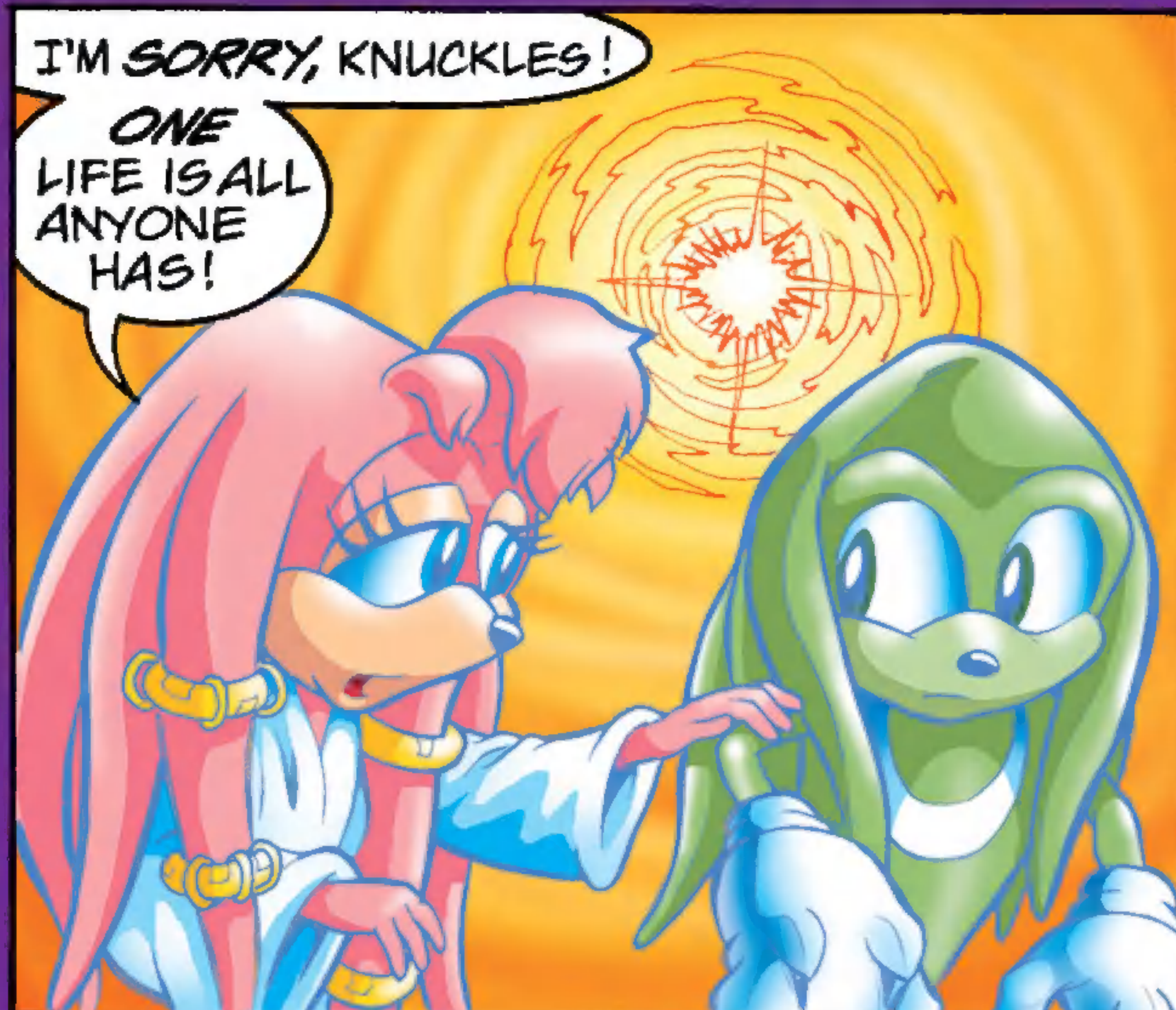
--SO, TOO, DID YOU NEED TIME TO BECOME **ACCUSTOMED** TO YOUR ABILITIES!

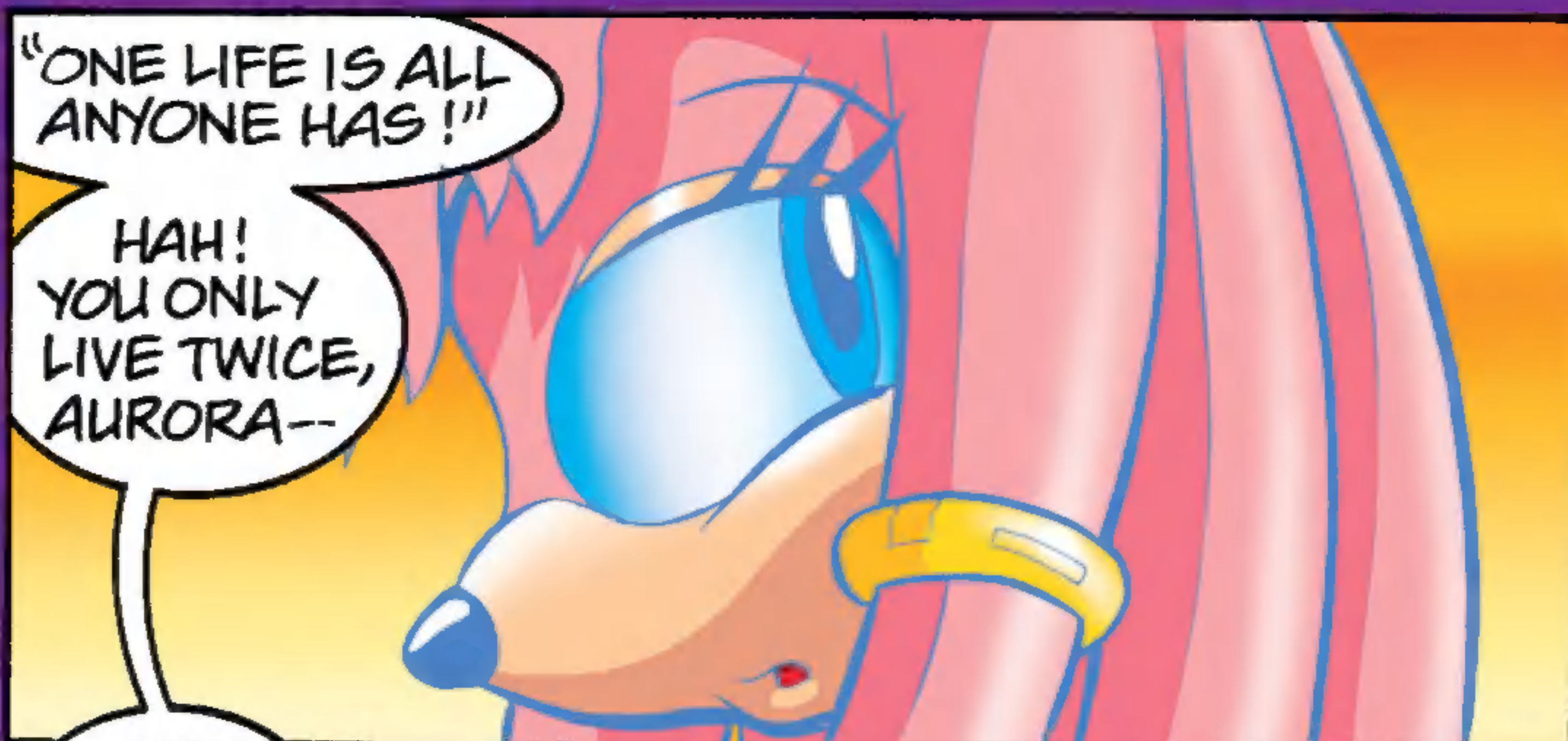
POWER TO RIVAL THE **ANCIENT WALKERS** IS NOT SOMETHING **EASILY** MASTERED!

IF I WAS--AM--
WHATEVER--**THAT** POWERFUL--

--THEN HOW COME I **DIED**?



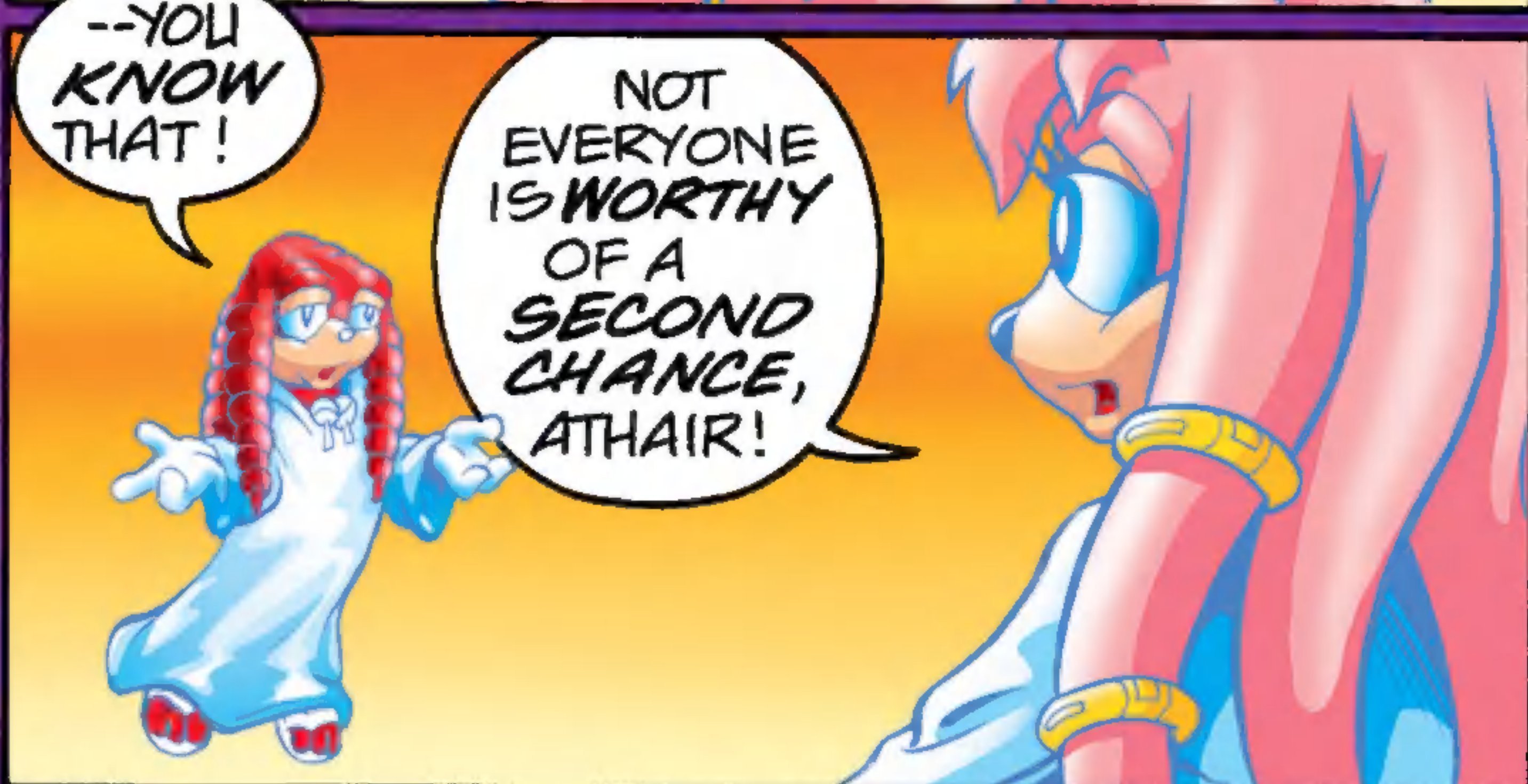




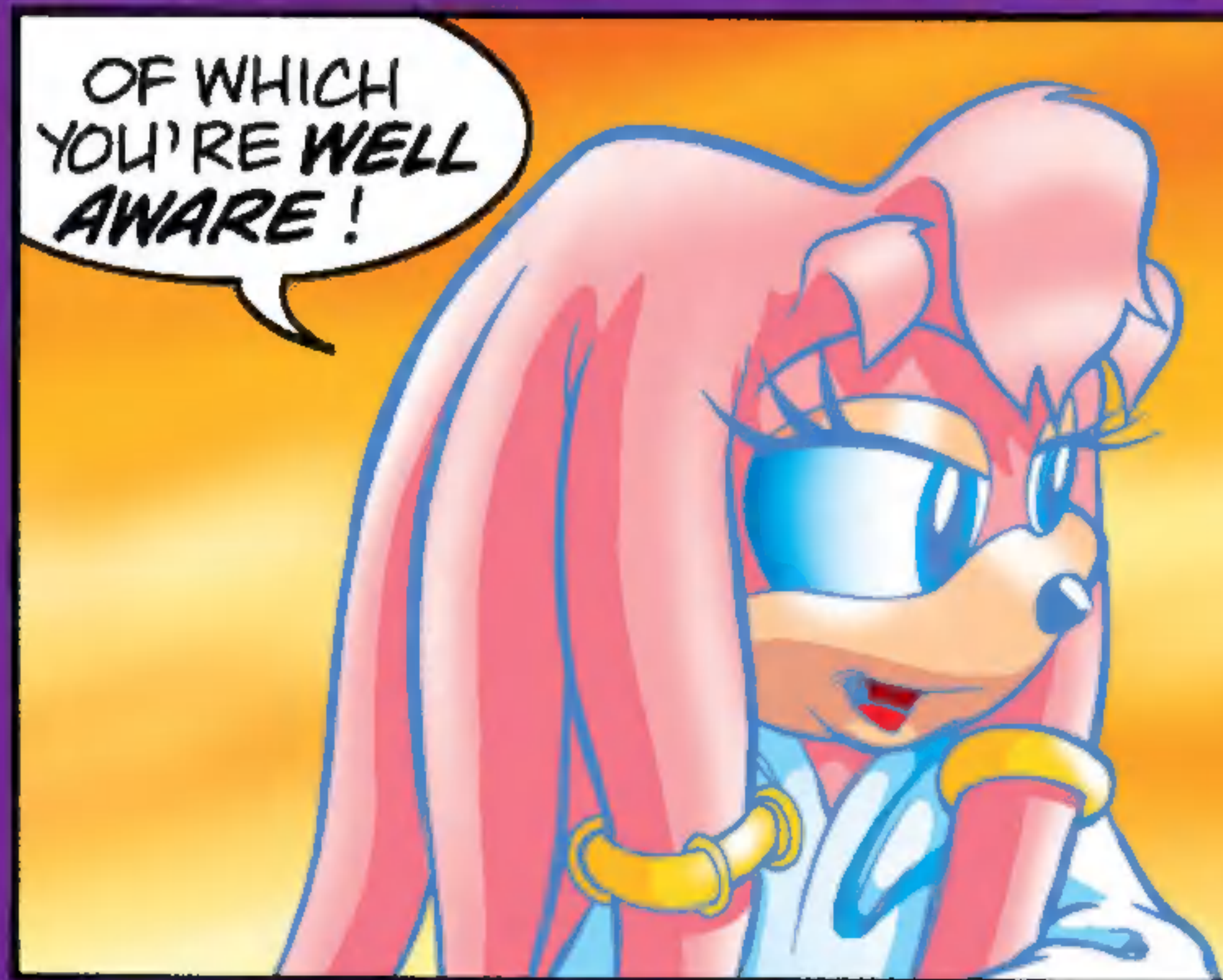
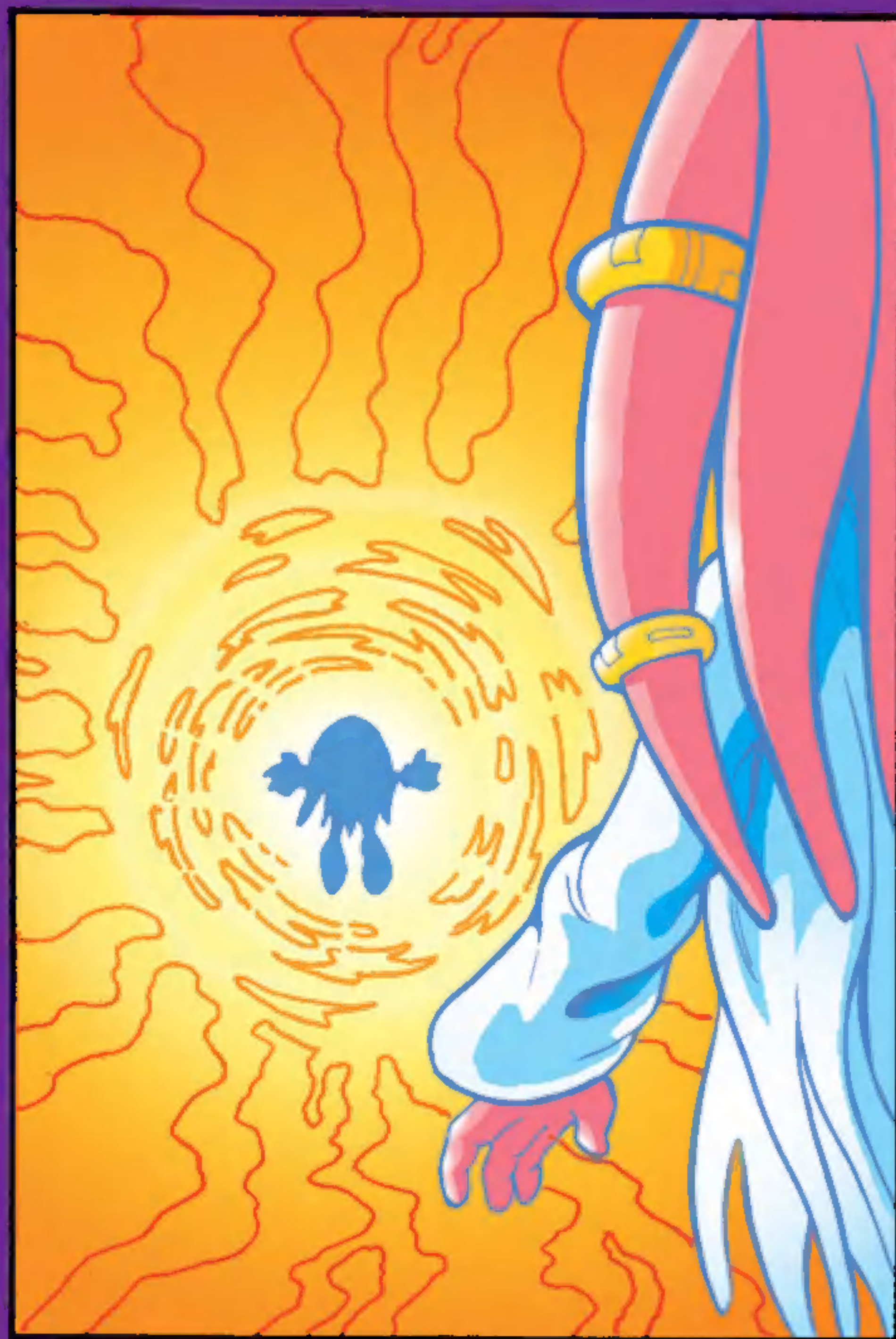
"ONE LIFE IS ALL ANYONE HAS!"

HAH! YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE, AURORA--

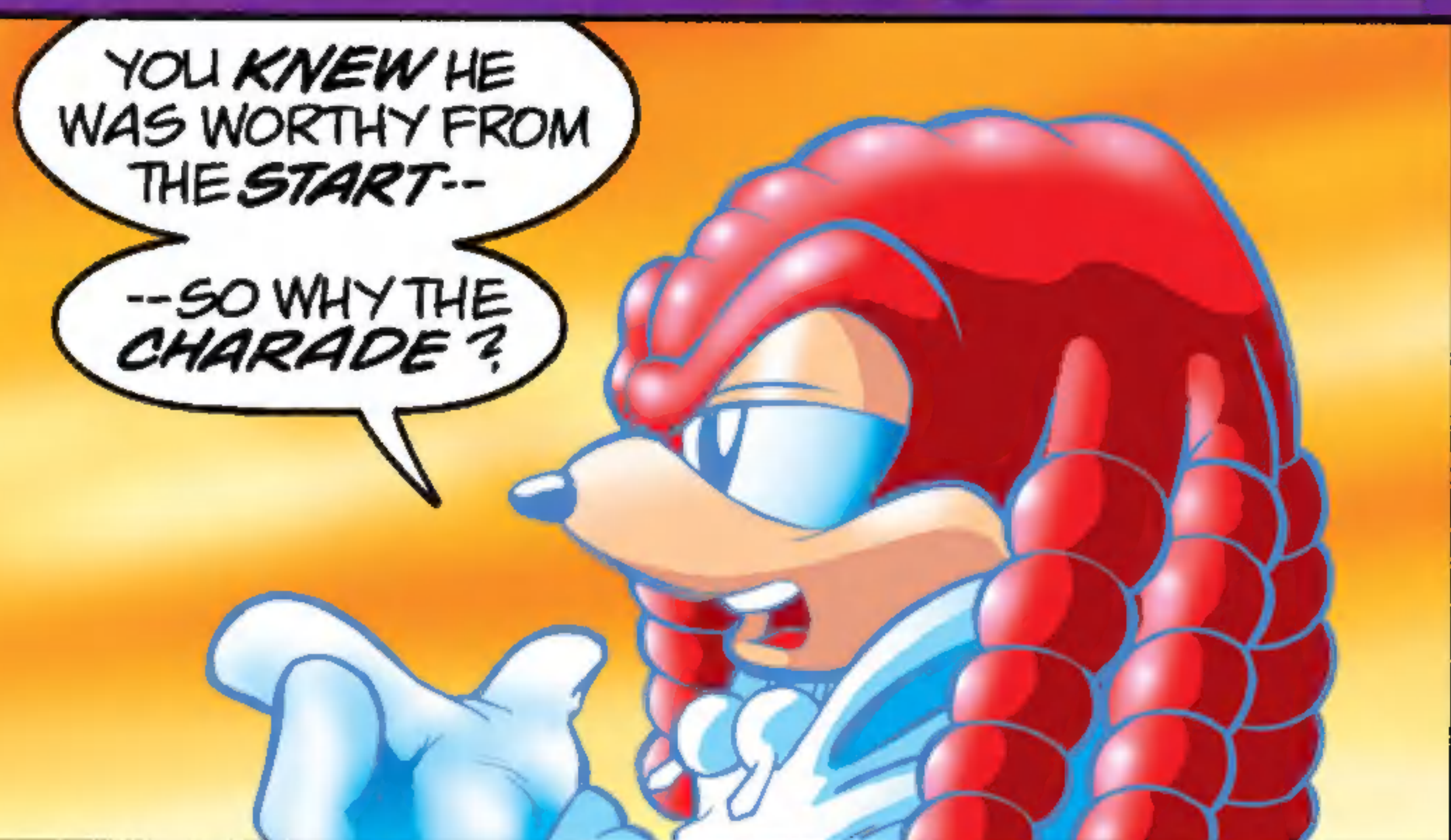
--YOU KNOW THAT!



NOT EVERYONE IS WORTHY OF A SECOND CHANCE, ATHAIR!



OF WHICH YOU'RE WELL AWARE!



YOU KNEW HE WAS WORTHY FROM THE START--

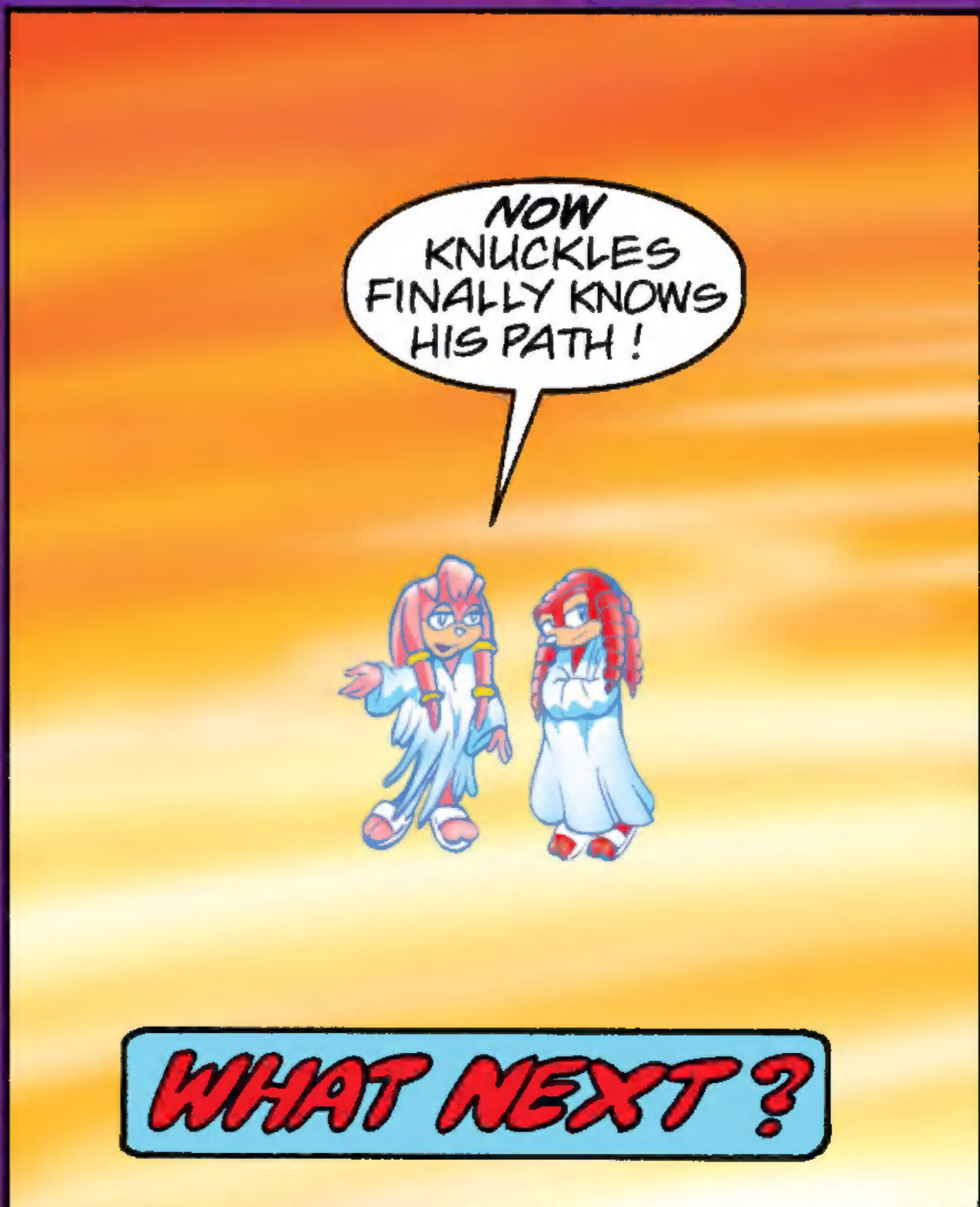
--SO WHY THE CHARADE?



CHARADE, ATHAIR?

YOU WERE A LOST SOUL UNTIL THE WALKERS PROVIDED GUIDANCE!

THAT IS ALL I DID FOR HIM.



NOW KNUCKLES FINALLY KNOWS HIS PATH!

WHAT NEXT?